



MONTHLY MEETINGS

See calendar, back page

SAVE THESE DATES:

Thursday, May 1  
Voters Service Orientation  
LWVDV Boardroom

**MONDAY, MAY 19 –  
LAST DAY TO REGISTER  
(OR CHANGE  
REGISTRATION) FOR  
JUNE PRIMARY**

Saturday, July 19  
“Climate Change”  
LWVDV Boardroom  
*(see page 3)*

Saturday, Aug. 16  
“Court System”  
Concord Library  
*(see page 3)*

Saturday, Sept 20  
“Inequality for All”  
LWVDV Boardroom  
*(see page 3)*

Tuesday, Sept 23 – National  
Voter Registration Day

Friday, Oct 17  
Field Trip, Cal State East  
Bay  
*(see page 3)*



## **Announcing: The Return of Monthly League Meetings!**

Beginning June 21<sup>st</sup> our League will host monthly meetings on the third Saturday, from 3 – 4:30, alternating between Concord and Lafayette. (*See page 3 for more information on the proposed schedule.*)

**Saturday, June 21, 2014  
3:00 – 4:30 pm  
Concord Library Meeting Room  
2900 Salvio Street, Concord**

### **“Health Care System Changes - ACA and Beyond”**

We will show a short film on the Canadian Health Care system. Pat Snyder, member of LWVDV, HCA-CC and All Care Alliance will lead a discussion Free, non-members welcome.





## LEAGUE LEADER'S LETTER

*By Leslie Stewart, LWVDV President*

### **Build Your Own League**

"Oh, all I can do is write a check, I really can't be active." Many of our members, as they grow older, respond this way to our interest surveys – and we do understand. But some of you may want to be active and just don't see where you fit in to what may seem a complex organization. For you, it's time to stress the opportunities to get more involved.

Yes, there are jobs to be filled, and I'll get to those in a moment. But first, think about what you want the League to be. Some of our new members were disappointed that there weren't regular monthly meetings where they could meet other members and discuss issues – so now we have a committee planning monthly programs (see page 3). We hadn't put prison realignment on our "top three issues" list a few years ago, but Lee Lawrence saw an opportunity and ran with it – now we have new alliances.

This is one reason we call our organization "a local League" and not a "chapter". Chapters are for top-down organizations, but the League is a grassroots organization. Just as a community has houses that have a similar purpose but fit different families, local Leagues are able to fit themselves to their own members and their communities. LWVUS is working hard on voting rights -- important but not a big issue in California. But if you're interested in better child care? We have a position statement ready for you, even though it's not a primary interest at state or national levels.

And meanwhile, those jobs? There are many "one-shot" jobs, but as a volunteer organization without staff, it's the month-after-month jobs, even small ones, that keep us running smoothly. Let's start with Voter Editor, which I'm currently doing. It's not really supposed to be the President's job. It takes a few days at the end of each month to put together a fairly simple Word document. How about office volunteer one day per month? I'm sure you get the idea. Let's talk!

### **Annual Meeting Kudos**

Many thanks to Carol Murota, for her magnificent spread of refreshments and a lovely room set-up. Carole Woods and Martha Goralka provided invaluable assistance with check-ins. And a special thank-you to Steve Weir, who recently rejoined the League, for his fascinating insights into voting processes and the chance to see a truly classic car!

## THIRD SATURDAY PROGRAM MEETINGS

Beginning June 21<sup>st</sup> our League will host monthly third Saturday meetings from 3 – 4:30. The purpose of the meetings is both to learn about and discuss important issues and get to know one another. Non-member guests are welcome and the events will be free. Snacks and drinks will be available.

On even numbered months, the meetings will be held in the meeting room at the Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. On odd numbered months they will be held in Lafayette at the League Office, 500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette or in the Cedar Room at the same street address, depending on audience size.

The next meeting of the planning group will be at 1:00 on June 12<sup>th</sup>, at the LWV office. If you would like to be part of the group planning these meetings (Janet Thomas, Carole Woods, Lura Dymond, Juliana Moore, Rachel Dippell, Ronnie Jacknell and Marcia Cannon) please come to the meeting or leave a message for Janet at the LWVDV office if you are not able to attend the next meeting but are interested in helping plan.

Among other issues we hope to address the 2014-15 focus topics which the League has chosen. These are: Economic Justice, Climate Change and Higher Education.



**THE 2014-15 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE** is as follows.  
(Unless otherwise indicated, programs will be from 3:00 – 4:30. C=Concord, L=Lafayette)

**June 21 - C – “Health Care System Changes - ACA and Beyond”** We will show a short film on the Canadian Health Care system. Pat Snyder, member of LWVDV, HCA-CC and All Care Alliance will lead a discussion

**July 19 - L - “ Climate Change - Beyond Inconvenient Truth”** - Marti Roach, member of LWVDV and Citizens Climate Lobby, will lead a discussion

**Aug 16 -C- “Changes in the California Court System and Local Developments”** - Lura Dymond, member of LWVDV, will lead the discussion

**Sept. 20 - L- We will show Robert Reich's film, “Inequality for All”**, and have a group discussion

**Oct 17 (Note that this is a Friday. Campus is closed on Saturdays) Field Trip to CSU East Bay** and hear from Robert Phelps and Lisa Zachan, administrators, about challenges facing the CSU system.

PROGRAM (continued from page 3)

**TOPICS TO BE DECIDED:**

L- Nov. 15; skip Dec.; L- Jan. 17; C-Feb. 21 ; L- March 21 ; C - April 18; L- May 16

**IDEAS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:** Immigration- What’s happening at the Richmond Detention Center? Homelessness and the Winter Nights Program; Voting and Online Registration; Juvenile Justice

**If you have ideas about future speakers, topics, short films, or if you’d like to facilitate a meeting, bring food or be a greeter, please contact Janet Thomas (leave a message for her at the LWVDV office).**

## THE LEAGUE IN ACTION

### LWVC Supports Measures 41 and 42

The LWVC supports both measures on the June ballot. Our support for Prop 41 is based on our [position on housing](#), and the need for more affordable housing in California. Prop 42 will guarantee the [public’s right to know](#) and make it clear that adherence to both the Brown Act and California Public Records Act is a basic cost of doing business for governments.



### LWVDV Supports Two Ballot Measures on June 3 Ballot

At its April board meeting, the LWV Diablo Valley voted to support two measures on the June 3 ballot: Bond Measure E, Contra Costa Community College District, and Bond Measure J, Orinda Road and Storm Drain Repair Measure.

**Please share this information with friends, and Vote With the League!**

### No Consensus on Minimum Wage -- Cannot Support It

From LWVC April Update:

There are a number of proposed minimum wage measures in cities and counties around California. Please note that **local Leagues may not support these measures using the LWVUS Meeting Basic Human Needs position.** In the study that led to the adoption of that position, there was a question on the minimum wage. Because there was no consensus on that question, we have no position from which to act.

## **ACTION, continued**



*When the League takes action, it is often based on information from members who are involved in their communities, or from reports from our regular city council and Board of Supervisors observers. Observers attend meetings wearing their League of Women Voters button. They do not speak, but their reports keep us abreast of League issues and also how our elected officials conduct themselves and their public meetings. Here is a typical observer report.*

### **Observer Report – Lafayette, April 28** **Observer: Carol Murota**

#### Affordable Housing:

At the Lafayette City Council meeting tonight the council members approved a proclamation recognizing May 9 - 18 as Affordable Housing Week in Lafayette.

**Note:** This public affirmation of the need for affordable housing in our community aligns with the League's positions on Housing and Meeting Basic Human Needs and we are glad to see there was unanimous Council support for it.

#### Water:

The Lafayette City Council heard from EBMUD Director, Ward 2, John Coleman who projected the water district will request residents to voluntarily reduce water usage by 10% for May and June with a reassessment of the water supply in September. This reprieve from required usage reduction is due to long range planning undertaken during the previous drought. Water stored in anticipation of this drought will now be released to fill our reservoirs, providing immediate, though short term, relief.

Director Coleman announced that there are three water bills currently in the state legislature which EBMUD is following: AB 2686 (Perea), AB 1331 (Rendon), and SB 848 (Wolk). These are three different bills authorizing a water bond on the November 2014 ballot. The Perea bill would include funding for water districts to expand and consolidate water systems to provide safe drinking water.

**Note:** we need to check to see if LWVC has positions on these bills.

#### Help Wanted:

Action Committee Coordinator, to convene monthly meetings of the LWVDV advocacy group and coordinate advocacy actions. Please contact any member of the LWVDV Board.

## LWVDV CANDIDATE FORUMS – ON A CHANNEL NEAR YOU!

The candidates for three major races on the June 3 primary ballot participated in League-sponsored debates on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The three races were for County Superintendent of Schools (replacing Joe Ovick), State Assembly District 16 (replacing Joan Buchanan), and U.S. Representative District 11 (replacing George Miller).

Gwen Watson, LWVDV incoming Voters Service chair, organized the three debates, and Tom Barnidge from the Contra Costa Times moderated them. The debates were taped by CCTV for airing during the next weeks leading to the election.



Following the debates, Gwen received a nice note from one of the participants, Ki Ingersol, who said "You and your colleagues at the League of Women Voters did an excellent job organizing everything and I am grateful that I had the chance to participate."

### AIR TIMES:

CCTV is Comcast channel 27, Astound channel 32 and AT&T U-verse channel 99.

#### Congress 11<sup>th</sup> District

Tuesday, May 6 at 7 p.m.,  
Sunday, May 11 at 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 13 at 7 p.m.  
Sunday, May 18 at 3 p.m.  
Monday, May 19 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, May 25 at 5 p.m.  
Monday May 26 at 1 p.m.  
Sunday, June 1 at 8 p.m.

#### County Supt of Schools

Tuesday, May 6 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, May 11 at 8 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 13 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, May 18 at 4 p.m.  
Monday, May 19 at 9 p.m.  
Sunday, May 25 at 6 p.m.  
Monday May 26 at 2 p.m.  
Sunday, June 1 at 9 p.m.

#### State Assembly 16<sup>th</sup> District

Tuesday, May 6 at 8:30 p.m.  
Sunday, May 11 at 8:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 13 at 8:30 p.m.  
Sunday, May 18 at 4:30 p.m.  
Monday, May 19 at 9:30 p.m.  
Sunday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m.  
Monday May 26 at 2:30 p.m.  
Sunday, June 1 at 9:30 p.m.

### HOA Elections – A Role for League?

Are you interested in a slightly different League election experience? League members have occasionally served as third-party observers at elections and other official activities of homeowners associations. We have been contacted by a local resident who may be requesting these services from the League.

There are instructions and guidance available from LWV California and from other Leagues who do this regularly. Does this appeal to you? If so, let me know: [president@lwvdv.org](mailto:president@lwvdv.org).

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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Current/past issues are posted on our [website](http://www.lwvdv.org).

**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!

Lara Delaney  
Joseph Egri

Sally Germain  
Jane Houser

Elise Judy  
Leslie Stewart

Lucia Trujillo

**Welcome, Lori Stevens from Danville!**

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**eScrip Pennies Add Up for League**

eScrip is an easy way to help non-profits like our Diablo Valley League while doing your everyday shopping\*. In brief, you go to the eScrip webpage, register your credit cards and store loyalty cards and a percentage of your charges is deposited in our LWV-DV bank account automatically. It doesn't cost you anything and helps us a lot.



- 1) type [escrip.com](http://escrip.com) into your browser search window
- 2) find "**sign up**" on eScrip webpage and register for an account
- 3) **select the LWV-DV** as a recipient (type League of Women Voters-Diablo Valley into the Search field)
- 4) **register your cards** (note: entering your Safeway card will help any school that you include as a recipient, but not League.)
- 5) sign off with our **thanks!**

\*Participating merchants change frequently. Here is one place you can check to see which restaurants in our area contribute to eScrip – just put in your ZIP code at the top of the page: <http://escrip.rewardsnetwork.com/>



**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**

- May 1 Voters Service Orientation**  
2 – 3:15 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- May 8 Old/New Board**  
1-4 pm - [LWVDV Office](#)
- June 12 Program Comm.**  
1 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- June 12 Board Meeting**  
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- June 21 Healthcare Program**  
3-4:30 Concord Library

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE!**