



### MONTHLY MEETINGS

See calendar, back page

### SAVE THESE DATES:

**Tuesday, Nov. 4**

Election Day

**Poll Observation –  
Choose Your Times,  
Make a Difference!**

(see page 2)

**Saturday, Dec. 6**

LWV Group Tour

Galindo House, Concord

3 – 4:30 pm

Optional lunch, 1:30 pm

Old Spaghetti Factory

(see page 3)

**Saturday, Jan. 17**

Building a Better BART

3 – 4:30 pm

Cedar Room

Lafayette Comm. Ctr.

**Saturday, Jan. 31**

Bay Area League Day

“Climate Change”

MetroCenter, 8<sup>th</sup> & Oak

Oakland, CA

(see page 7)

### “Third Saturday” Meeting

**November 15, 2014**

### Housing for Everyone: It’s Time to Think Outside the Box



Louise Bourassa, Executive Director of the Contra Costa Interfaith Housing Program will speak about **Zero: 2016**, a rigorous follow-up to the **100,000 Homes Campaign**, which was designed to help communities do what it takes to end chronic homelessness in the next two and a half years.

Cedar Room  
Lafayette Community Center  
3 – 4:30 pm

All League members and friends invited!  
Free program, light refreshments.



## LEAGUE LEADER'S LETTER

*By Leslie Stewart, LWVDV President*

### **In Brief**

Many thanks to Gwen Watson for all she has been doing. In addition to leading a great Voter Service team this year, she has also arranged our November Third Saturday speaker. Gwen notes that Ms. Bourassa will be using LWVDV Housing Chair Mary Fenelon's presentation, including an "impressive slide show with the greatest photos imaginable".

*I'll be brief this month – I recently had a minor medical procedure and am focusing on getting this newsletter to you. Please read all the other wonderful information it contains!*

### **Poll Observers Wanted!**

*Lee Lawrence, Co-Chair, Voter Registration*

Please call the League office at 283-2235 to volunteer for Poll Observing on election day. If you no longer want to work a full day at the polls, this can be a wonderful way to get your Election Day buzz! You can pick your own hours between 7 am and 8 pm. We have a list of over 200 polling places in central and eastern Contra Costa, and will call you to agree on which polling places you will go to and when, so we can make maximum efficient use of our volunteers.

This can be a fun and easy job! We usually don't stay longer than 30 minutes in each polling place. After entering the poll, introduce yourself to the Inspector, explain you are from the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, and are there to observe. I hope you will wear your League of Women Voters button. We are frequently offered a chair to sit in, where we can easily observe the process.

Are voters greeted cordially, is there a friendly and helpful atmosphere? If they are not found in the voter rolls, are they directed to a correct polling place, or are they offered a provisional ballot? Are the backs of vote-by-mail envelopes checked for signatures? Are all election personnel working responsibly? Does the Inspector appear to be in charge and competent? Is the privacy of ballots respected in the booths and while inserting ballots into the machine? If there are problems you observe, please call Lee Lawrence at 878-1162 and she can report issues to the County Elections office.

Please call the LWVDV office to sign up, and to get a complete list of items to watch for, guidelines, etc. We hope you'll join us in making the rounds of democracy in action on November 4!

## Holiday Cheer

*Carole Woods, Program Committee member*

LWVDV has something different planned for December, but it will take a little effort on your part because we need to have a count of how many people will attend.

So, the "Third Saturday" meeting in December is the first Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Come to lunch, if you want, at the Spaghetti Factory in downtown Concord on Todos Santos Plaza at 1:30 pm.

Then, and here's where we need the count, join us for a tour of the Galindo House. Built in the 1800's, this gem has been fully restored and will be beautifully decorated for the holidays.

The Concord Historical Society will provide docents. Please reserve a place by November 21<sup>st</sup> so the coordinator can recruit enough docents. Leave a message for Carole Woods, 925-283-2235, or [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org). You're welcome to bring a friend.



## VOTER SERVICE: Wrapping Up the Election Season

### League Team Makes Smart Voter a Success

*Ashley Coates, [Smartvoter.org](http://Smartvoter.org) Contra Costa and LWVDV coordinator*

Several LWVDV members have been instrumental in making [Smartvoter.org/VotersEdge.org](http://Smartvoter.org/VotersEdge.org) **the** go-to source for local candidate information.

Many people took one or more lists of candidates to call, to check that they received their invitation and to answer questions or refer the candidate to me for help. This personal outreach ensured that candidates indeed received an invitation, and motivated quite a few candidates who easily could have ignored it. Thank you to Diane Griffiths, Juliana Boyle, Marian Shostrom, Patsy Sharaf, Sally Germain, Audrey Albrecht, Lee Lawrence, Joan Lautenberger, and student Sophie Hecht.

Other crucial tasks that volunteers helped with included:

- Reviewing candidates' postings to ensure they meet our terms of participation (thank you to Lura Dymond who did this before AND after her move to Southern California), and
- Entering local ballot measures and making links to other information sources (thank you to Marian Shostrom).

By the way, I'll be training new folks to take over the coordination roles for the next election. If you're interested, contact LWVDV, 925-283-2235 or [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org).

## Last Chance Voter Registration at BART Stations



*Lee Lawrence, Voter Registration Co-Chair*

Monday, October 20th, the last day to register to vote before the Nov. 4th General Election, League members staffed BART stations in Central and Eastern Contra Costa County from 4-7 pm, registering waves of commuters as they emerged from the turnstiles. We had checked with BART and learned that over 1200 commuters an hour use each of the 4 BART stations we staffed, and that peak hours are 4 pm to 7 pm.

Many thanks to Mary Fenelon, Joan Lautenberger, and Barbara Coenen who welcomed voters at the Walnut Creek BART. Equal applause to Gwen Watson and Mary Flott who had an ironing board as well as clipboards for commuters in Pleasant Hill. Martha Goralka and Lee Lawrence worked at Pittsburg/BayPoint, enjoying chats and updates between trains. And bravo to Ann Flynn and Juliana Boyle at the Concord BART: they outdid our first three groups by 4 more voter registrations!

A special shout-out to Joan Lautenberger, our long-time Voter Registration chair, who parked at the CVS on Olympic close to the I-680 exit to gather all our completed forms and drive them to the Contra Costa County Elections office in Martinez by 8:30.

We registered approximately 50 people, in addition to handing out about 50 slips with the URL of online voter registration so procrastinators could register via the internet up to 11:59 pm! And in Pittsburg a law student fluent in Spanish came over to volunteer for the League! We hope she will join us for Poll Observing.



### **BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY – SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, January 31, 2015, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Metro Center, 8<sup>th</sup> and Oak St, Oakland, CA (Lake Merritt BART)

The theme this year will be **Climate Change**. Speakers and panels will address Bay Area wide impacts of climate change; national, state and, especially, regional actions and policies that can mitigate the inevitable adverse effects of climate change, point the way to local and global solutions, and contribute to economic growth and environmental justice. For information or to suggest topics or panel members, contact Linda Craig at [president@lwvbayarea.org](mailto:president@lwvbayarea.org).

**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.**

## The Campus on the Hill: An Unappreciated Asset

*Janet Thomas, Program Committee Member*

On Friday, October 17th, LWVDV members were guests at the beautiful Cal State East Bay campus in Concord. Members were given an overview of the history of the campus and some of the successes and challenges facing the satellite university by the dynamic retired dean, Bette Felton. They were then given a tour of the modern facility set beneath spectacular Mt. Diablo and surrounded by open space.

CalState East Bay's main campus is in Hayward. The Concord campus is a satellite offering upper division courses in the following areas: Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration, Criminal Justice Administration, English, History, Human Development, Liberal Studies, Liberal Studies with a Preliminary Multiple Subject Teaching Credential (BPEP), Nursing (BSN and RN to BSN), Psychology, Health Science, and Sociology; Educational Credentials in Multiple Subject, Single Subject and Adult Education. The campus administration, faculty and students are excited about the potential new "sustainable farming and agriculture" degree/certificate currently under development.

In 2012, the ***Princeton Review*** selected Cal State East Bay as a "Best in the West" college for 2013 for the ninth consecutive year. The report is based on surveys of current students, who noted the following highlights:

- affordable tuition
- small class sizes
- strong business, nursing, and teaching programs
- diligent, career-minded students
- multicultural community



During the visit, LWVDV members were reminded of the financial challenges facing all public institutions. There have been severe cuts in faculty and courses offered the past decade as a result of budget cuts. However, the university and Concord satellite campus continue to fill a tremendous need of the diverse, mainly working class student population who are striving to gain more education and skills. Several members were very impressed by the state-of-the-art chemistry lab and the hands-on artificial patient training room for nurses.

One of the jewels of the Concord campus is the active OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING program (OLLI). This is a program of stand-alone continuing education enrichment courses, ranging from music appreciation to history (perfect for older League members!) For more information: <https://www.scholarolli.com/contact-us/>



## Money Matters – and So Do You!

*Carole Woods, Board Treasurer*

### ***What do your dues do?***

Dues are not a great source of income for our local League. Most of the League's income comes from our contract with the county for voter registration form distribution in our area (post offices, libraries, city halls), a sub-lease for the rent, and donations.

Of the sixty-five dollars you pay for individual dues, fifty-five of it goes to the Per Member Payment fees of the national, state, and Bay Area organizations to support their work (e.g. Voting Rights). The portion LWVDV retains helps with monthly programs, voter service, and operating expenses.

As of August, LWVDV dues and donations are tax-deductible. This is not true of donations to the other levels of the League because they don't qualify for a 501(c)(3) designation unless the donations are made specifically to their Education Funds.

As much as your dues, your involvement is valued. Opportunities abound:

- Volunteer in the office two hours a month
- Become an observer at city council or board of education meetings
- Work on the Action committee
- Participate on a study committee
- Moderate or be a timer at a candidate roundtable (we provide training!)
- Help with voter registration form distribution
- Reach out with information to local high schools
- Serve as an item chair; be the go-to person on a topic of interest (passion) to you
- Suggest some ideas and presenters for monthly meetings
- Offer to serve on the board

### ***And about those other levels of the League . . .***

#### **~ Keep informed with the LWVC Bill Status Report!**

The [Bill Status Report](http://lwc.org/act-now/bill-status-report) lists all the bills on which the LWV California took a position and their status at the end of this session. <http://lwc.org/act-now/bill-status-report>

#### **~ Learn what's happening with LWV around the country!**

Check out the LWVUS blog to see stories of local Leagues working on issues like voter ID laws and climate change. <http://www.lwv.org/blog>

#### **~Travel with the League**

LWV Florida regularly plans travel experiences for League members, from Miami to Alaska. To get on the list for these events, send an e-mail to [lwvfevents@gmail.com](mailto:lwvfevents@gmail.com).

**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).

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & UPDATES

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership. Please use the form on the back page. If you have already renewed, thank you! *(We send three notices before deleting but remember: expiration date does not change even if payment is later.)*

- |                 |                |                |                   |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Nancy Amini     | Robert Fisher  | Holly Mariella | Pat Shanahan      |
| Robin Braverman | Evelyn Graetz  | Sue Polgar     | Cheri Smith       |
| Marcia Cannon   | Jeffrey Heaton | Baika Pratt    | Patricia Snyder   |
| Barbara Coenen  | Rachel Irelan  | Suzan Requa    | Georgine Sullivan |
| Karrie Connors  | William Jakel  | Don Ritchey    | Fred Sullivan     |
| Clayton Englar  | Elsa Ludwig    | Sharon Ritchey | Barbara Wille     |

**Welcome, new member Jackie Pine, Concord!**



**We're on Facebook!**

Visit us and LIKE our Facebook page. [www.facebook/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Diablo-Valley](http://www.facebook/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Diablo-Valley).



**And Twitter!**

Follow us on Twitter -- @LWVDiabloValley  
***Please help us grow our social media network!***

### Did You Know??

*From the LWVBA Voter:*

In mid-September, LWV Bay Area moved to 436 14<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 1213, Oakland, CA 94612. Phone number will still be 510-839-1608, but we will no longer have a fax number.

We are now sharing the office with LWV of Oakland. We have access to a beautiful conference room for our Board and committee meetings.

*(For several years following the 1989 earthquake, LWVBA shared the LWVDV Boardroom.)*



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 500 St. Mary's Road, #14  
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**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
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** of ALL above enclosed to LWVDV.  
*(LWVDV is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues and donations to LWVD are tax-deductible. Tax ID number supplied on request.)*

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**

- Nov. 4 Election Day**  
 7 am-8 pm **Poll Observation**  
 Various locations
- Nov.11 Action Comm.**  
 2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Nov.13 Board Meeting**  
 2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Nov. 15 Housing for Everyone**  
 3-4:30 pm Cedar Room, Laf. Community Center
- Dec. 6 Holiday Event**  
 3-4:30 pm Galindo House Concord