



MONTHLY MEETINGS

See calendar, back page
(Note: some meetings have moved from their regular dates this month and next!)

IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday, May 5
San Ramon USD Tax
Mail Election

Saturday, May 9
Human Trafficking/Break
Free
3-4:30 pm, Cedar Room
Lafayette Comm. Ctr.

Fri-Sun, May 15-17
LWV California
Convention, San Diego

Tuesday, May 26
Higher Education Study
2 pm, LWVDV office

Tuesday, May 19
Special General Election

Saturday, June 20
LWVDV Annual Meeting
10 a.m. – noon
Cedar Room
Lafayette Comm. Ctr.

“Third” Saturday Meeting

Saturday, May 9, 2015



HUMAN TRAFFICKING
What are the facts and solutions?

Human trafficking is a staggering \$9.8 billion industry in the U.S. Today, it is considered one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, with every state in the U.S. and 167 countries reporting incidents of human trafficking.

Join us as we hear from Adriana Fruechtl, director of education and outreach for Break Free Education. Break Free Education, powered by 3Strands Global, educates and raises awareness about the incidence, prevalence and pervasiveness of human trafficking.

Come share, discuss and learn – and find out why these pretty pink bracelets are an appropriate image for this meeting! Light refreshments served.

Cedar Room – Lafayette Community Center
3:00–4:30 PM
500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette, CA

League and non-League members welcome!



LEAGUE LEADER'S LETTER

By Leslie Stewart, LWVDV President

A Peek at the President's E-Mail Inbox

One way to see how many different ways the LWVDV is making a difference in our communities is to look at what's happening over a couple of weeks, based on my e-mail. So here's a sample of what I've been seeing this month:

- Arrangements for the latest candidate forum and followup (*see page 3*) – thank you, Gwen Watson, Sharon Burke, Marian Shostrum, Ashley Coates, and the rest of the Voter Service team who have been working on our Special Election activities!
- Notice that the county contract renewal for our voter registration form distribution has arrived –we've now signed and notarized it, thanks to Carole Woods!
- Discussion with LWVDV board members and others over joining the Interfaith Climate Change Network as a coalition member – thank you to Janet Thomas, who agreed to staff an outreach table at the Earth Day kickoff for the Network, and to Marti Roach who helped make that possible!
- News about a new member and suggestions for LWV activities she might enjoy
- Plans for our study committee participating in the LWVC study of Access to Higher Education (*see page 3*) – thank you, Carol Murota, for organizing this!
- Regular updates from LWVC and LWVUS on how LWV is being active in California and across the country
- Decisions on who will be our Annual Meeting speaker in June – again, thanks to Gwen Watson, who made “the ask” for two potential speakers!
- Announcements from the Nominating Committee on successful completion of a slate of board members for next year – thank you, Sally Germain, Mary Fenelon, Fred Sullivan, Barbara Coenen and Audrey Albrecht!
- Announcement flyers for our “Third Saturday” meeting this month (*see page 1*) – thank you, Janet Thomas and Julianna Boyle, for the flyers, and to the Program Committee for over a year of planning these successful meetings!

A Peek at Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting will be Saturday, June 20, from 10 am - noon. Some members will remember that Annual Meeting information was formerly mailed a month before the meeting. Now that we are using first-class mail, we aren't required to send the kit so early (so maybe you won't lose it before the meeting!) But you might enjoy knowing some of what will be in it well beforehand, so check out the Nominating Committee report on page 6. And our speaker will be our County Clerk, Joe Canciamilla.

VOTER SERVICE -- Special Election News!!

It's Not Too Late to Watch Our Forum!

With no single candidate getting over 50% of the vote on March 17, the State Senate District 7 race will be decided in a special election on May 19, 2015. The two candidates who advanced to this election are Susan Bonilla and Steve Glazer. A candidate forum for this race was taped on April 24 at the CCTV studios and is now available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXCUC4AkuFo>.



The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley partnered with the Contra Costa Times, Betsy Burkhart and Chris Verdugo from CCTV, and Joe Canciamilla, County Clerk for Contra Costa County, and his associates Paul Burgarino and Lori Haywood. More information, including a map of District 7, is available at <http://www.cocovote.us/current-election/may-19-2015-special-general-election/> (Some League members were surprised in March to find out they weren't part of Senate District 7 – Pleasant Hill and Martinez are now in State Senate District 3, represented by Lois Wolk.)



Smart Voter - As Always, the Best Bet for Election Info

Be sure to remind your friends about Smart Voter – smartvoter.org -- much more dependable information than those huge mail hit pieces for the May 19th Senate District 7 runoff election between Susan Bonilla and Steve Glazer.

LWV PROGRAM

California: Access to Higher Education Study

Carol Murota, Study Committee Chair

The first meeting of the LWVDV Higher Ed Study Committee has been set for Tuesday, May 26, at 2 pm at the LWVDV office. Please join us! We will be addressing such questions as what is the role of higher education? How is higher education funded and should it be a top priority for state funding? Should California's higher education institutions be free? How will or should higher education reflect California's diversity? Exciting and provocative questions that will culminate in a statewide position in 2016.

If you are unable to attend but you would like to learn more or be involved for future meetings, please send Carol Murota an email at info@lwvdv.org or leave a message on the office phone, 925-283-2235.

Regional: Plan Bay Area Update

(from the LWV Bay Area Voter)

Public open houses are being held in each of the 9 counties in the Bay Area to begin the process of updating Plan Bay Area, which was adopted in 2013. We encourage you to attend an open house in your area, as an individual, to suggest what should be the priorities for the next round. LWVBA will suggest official statements as the process moves forward in 2016.



Bay Area residents will begin a public discussion about the region's future growth at a series of public open houses being held in all nine Bay Area counties beginning April 29 and continuing through May 28. The discussion results and feedback will help inform the development of Plan Bay Area 2040, the region's long-range integrated land-use and transportation plan.

Note: the Contra Costa and Alameda workshops took place on April 29th. You can still attend a workshop in a nearby county -- San Francisco's workshop is on May 13 -- join the online discussion at www.planbayarea.org or share your thoughts on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). For more information, members of the public should call (510) 817-5757.

LWV ADVOCACY

LWVDV: Affordable Housing -- From the Observer Corps

Carol Murota, Lafayette Observer

Are rents exploding in Lafayette?! Rents are both a Bay Area-wide problem and a nationwide problem. Our Lafayette City Council met on Monday, April 27 to address this issue in our town and there was standing room only. The majority of attendees were part of the 23% of Lafayette's population who are renters and came to the Council for help. They were publicizing rental increases of up to 90%, in addition to other changes made by their landlord, who owns 4 large complexes. A comprehensive rental report by housing consultant Diana Elrod outlined the complexities and some consequences experienced in other cities around this issue. Two landlords owning small rental units spoke eloquently for differentiation between landlords with close relationships with their tenants and corporate landlords.

The entire transcript of the Lafayette City Council meeting can be heard on the Lafayette City website <http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us/city-hall/city-council/city-council-meetings>. If you click on item 9A, you can access Diana Elrod's written report and her presentation is available if you click on 'Information Regarding Rent Control and Rent Stabilization'. Kudos to our Lafayette City Council for addressing this explosive issue and making it possible for all citizens to participate through their website.

[Do you watch your City Council, even occasionally? You can be a League Observer! Just e-mail info@lwvdv.org to get started!]

California: AllCare Alliance Report

Pat Snyder, LWVDV Healthcare Item Chair

Lobby Day 2015, held on Monday, April 13 was a huge success! This year, in addition to lobbying for single payer, we joined with the Health4All Coalition in support of SB 4 (Lara) which will cover the undocumented in California. The effort was very timely, in that the bill was heard in Senate Health Committee on Wednesday, April 15, and passed 7-0, with all Republicans abstaining.

LWVC supports SB 4 (Lara), and has endorsed the AllCare Alliance.

The preparatory Leadership Conference for Lobby Day, held on Sunday, April 12, attracted 269 people. We heard excellent presentations from a number of experts, including Dr. Paul Song of the Courage Campaign, Anthony Wright of Health Access, and Sarah deGuia of the California Pan Ethnic Health Network.

On Monday, April 13, a Rally and Press Conference on the Capitol steps followed a lively march down the Capitol Mall. Others came by bus and train to join those who had attended the conference on Sunday. There was TV coverage in Sacramento of the event.

In the afternoon, members of the two coalitions who collaborated in the effort made visits to 75% of the Assembly and Senate offices, and delivered information packets to the rest.

CaHPSA, the California Health Professions Student Alliance, which has led Lobby Day for years, provided leadership on the logistical arrangements. Between the two coalitions, 250 organizations supported the event.

Passage of SB 4 will be a significant step forward in our campaign to win single payer because it will firmly establish that no group should be excluded from coverage, and will provide a solid basis for achieving universality.

With this big event, many relationships have been established between the AllCare Alliance and other important statewide organizations. We have greatly enhanced the strength of our grassroots movement, and we are in a great position to grow it even more. This is a major accomplishment of Lobby Day 2015.



California: Climate Change

(from the LWV Bay Area Voter)

Two bills now in the California Legislature are critical to our continued efforts to mitigate climate change. SB 32 and SB 350 will extend current greenhouse gas emission reductions and petroleum reduction targets to 2050 and 2030 respectively. LWV California supports SB 32 and supports in concept SB 350 (see www.lwvc.org Bill Status Report for information).

US: LWV Supports HR 425, the Stop Super PAC-Candidate Coordination Act

The League sent [a letter](#) to the U.S. House urging Representatives to cosponsor and support HR 425, the "Stop Super PAC--Candidate Coordination Act." Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will also deliver this letter in visits to select offices on Capitol Hill.

Report of the LWVDV Nominating Committee, 2015

We are pleased to nominate the following candidates for positions on the 2015-2016 Board for the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley:

President	Ann Flynn
Secretary	Suzan Requa
Voter Editor/Communications (at-large)	Leslie Stewart
At-Large Director	Martha Goralka
At-Large Director	Diane Mader

Nominating Committee, 2016: Mary Lembke, Ashley Coates, Pat Snyder

In addition, continuing At-Large Director Barbara Coenen will serve as Office Manager. Other continuing directors are: Carol Murota, VP; Carole Woods, Treasurer; Audrey Albrecht, Dues Secretary and LWVBA Liaison; Lee Lawrence, Action; Janet Thomas, Membership; and Gwen Watson, Voter Service.

Sally Germain, Chair

Help Support *The Bay Area Monitor*

Alec MacDonald, Editor, Bay Area Monitor

In the summer of 2014, the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund established its Water Education Initiative — a new project that was specially funded by water agencies, individual League members, and one local League. This allowed us to recruit journalist Robin Meadows as a reporting fellow for the *Bay Area Monitor*. Her series of six in-depth water articles in Volume 40 has drawn significant reader praise, and we have submitted it for an environmental reporting award.

This summer, we are applying the fellowship structure to all of our coverage. We have assembled a team of four talented journalists (Robin Meadows, Cecily O'Connor, LWVDV's own Leslie Stewart, and Liz Devitt) to each cover a designated topic (water, transportation, air/energy, and open space) in Volume 41.

We ask that you join us in supporting their important work with a financial contribution. Our formal fundraising campaign will begin soon, but if you would like to learn more now, please call 510-839-1608 or e-mail editor@bayareamonitor.org. You can also check our website (www.bayareamonitor.org) for updates, or follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/bayareamonitor>).

[Editor's Note: All LWVDV members should now be receiving the Bay Area Monitor by email]

DONATE

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at www.lwvdv.org.

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.)*

Lara Delaney
Sally Germain
Jane Houser

Elise Judy
Shirley Parker
Marian Shostrum

Leslie Stewart

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



We're on Facebook!

Visit us and LIKE our Facebook page. 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!

Climate Change News

The LWVUS Advocacy Committee supports a new website that provides good information to educate League members and the public about what a price on carbon could mean for our environment and our economy.

Diz Swift, from the League of Women Voters Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, is the main author behind the site. You can [read her blog for LWVUS](#) or check out the website at priceoncarbon.org!



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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

- May 9 "Third" Saturday Meeting**
 3-4:30 pm Cedar Room, Lafayette Comm Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd.
- May 12 Action Comm.**
 2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- May 21 Board Meeting**
 2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- June 4 Informal Board Meeting**
 2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- June 20 "Third" Saturday Meeting/Annual Meeting**
 3-4:30 pm Cedar Room, Lafayette Comm. Center