



MONTHLY MEETINGS

See calendar, back page

SAVE THESE DATES:

Thursday, Jan 8

LWVDV Program
Committee – Plan the
Third Saturday
Meetings!
1 – 2 pm
LWVDV Office
Lafayette

Saturday, Jan. 31

Bay Area League Day
“Climate Change”
MetroCenter, 8th & Oak
Oakland, CA
(see page 3)

Saturday, Feb. 7

Program Planning
10 am – noon
LWVDV Office
Lafayette
(see page 4)

Saturday, Feb 21

Addressing Domestic
Violence
3 – 4:30 pm
2200 Lisa Lane
Pleasant Hill

Third Saturday Meeting

January 17, 2015

Building a Better BART



Presented by BART District 1 Director Gail Murray.

Gail Murray is a transportation consultant, a former mayor of Walnut Creek and a member of LWVDV. She was elected to the BART Board in 2004.

**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

RESOLVED, in 2015 I will . . .

Traditionally, January is the time for resolutions – reassessing relationships, getting healthy, starting new things. January is the point in the League year when we also catch our breath after elections and holidays, and turn our attention to maintaining the League and keeping it healthy.

As you look at your plans for the new year, think about helping the League with its list as well – here are some suggestions:

1. **Set New Goals.** League is a grassroots organization because we make the decisions at the local level, or through local delegates to our conventions, that shape the other levels of League. Join us for this year's Program Planning on Saturday, February 7 (*see page 4*).
2. **Build Board (and off-Board) Strength.** Involved members make the League a strong organization. Please think about "leaning in" to be more involved. Members of the Nominating Committee are Sally Germain, Mary Felon, Fred Sullivan, Audrey Albrecht and Barbara Coenen. They'd like to hear from you!
3. **Meet More Friends.** Our advocacy efforts benefit from knowing our legislators, and they benefit from knowing us and our concerns. We will be visiting with our state representatives soon to ask them about some key issues. These are small and intimate conversations – would you like to be in the room? Let Lee Lawrence know!
4. **Manage Money Wisely.** The Budget Committee members develop our budget for next year, and part of the money they need in order to balance that budget will be raised with our annual Finance Drive letter. We can use a few good calculator-wielders for the Budget Committee. Help is also needed for getting out the fundraising letter, and we are attempting to build a mailing list of non-League donors this year, so we would appreciate hearing your suggestions for possible additions to the list. (Of course, we hope you'll donate yourself when you get the letter!) Contact Treasurer Carole Woods to help with these essential tasks.



We will also be looking back, by reviewing those LWVDV positions we agreed to look at more closely at last year's annual meeting.

I hope that 2015 is off to a good start for you, and I look forward to a great 2015 for the League – with your help!



2015 Bay Area League Day

Saturday, January 31, 2015

9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Registration and refreshments: 9:00 – 9:30 AM

MetroCenter Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Addressing Climate Change in the Bay Area

Keynote Address – Annie Notthoff, Natural Resources Defense Council
State Climate Change Laws , Target Reductions and the Bay Area

Measures to Achieve the 2050 GhG Target Reductions

John Gioia, Member, BAAQMD, Calif. Air Resources Board

Ken Kirkey, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Stuart Cohen, Transform

Adapting to Sea Level Rise

Richard Gordon, Assemblymember, Select Committee on Sea Level Rise

Bruce Riordan, Climate Change Consultant, Joint Policy Committee

Linda Dismore (Diz) Swift, Berkeley Public Works Commission

Local Impacts of Climate Change

Jenny Bard, American Lung Association

Timothy Burroughs, City of Berkeley

Paloma Pavel, Breakthrough Communities

REGISTRATION :

Send check payable to LWVBA by **Friday, January 23rd** to LWVBA, Attn: Bay Area League Day

NAME: _____ LOCAL LEAGUE: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE USING PAYPAL AFTER DECEMBER 1ST. THE COST IS \$35 PREPAID (\$20 WITHOUT LUNCH) AND \$40(\$25 WITHOUT LUNCH) AT THE DOOR. THE DEADLINE FOR PREPAID REGISTRATION WILL BE FRIDAY, JANUARY 23RD. IF REGISTERING BY MAIL, PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LWVBA, ATTN: BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY AND MAIL TO 436 14TH ST, SUITE 1213, OAKLAND CA 94612. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL ALEC MACDONALD AT (510) 839-1608 OR VISIT WWW.LWVBAYAREA.

LWV PROGRAM

State and Local Program Planning – We Are the “Deciders”

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area is working on Climate Change this year (*see the Bay Area League Day flyer on page 3*). How did that happen? A year ago, in a meeting, members of LWVDV voted to tell LWVBA that Climate Change was an issue that needed attention at the regional level. Other local Leagues did the same, and then confirmed the choice at the LWVBA convention in May.



Now it's time to decide the state priorities for the two years starting July 2015, and to do the same for the next year of LWVDV activities. **Please plan to join us** on Saturday, February 7, at a morning meeting in the LWVDV office, to participate in the League equivalent of primary elections – deciding which issues should be emphasized or studied. We have already had a request from LWV Berkeley/ Albany/Emeryville to propose Livable Minimum Wage as a state study. Do you agree? We need your voice!

Even if our suggestions don't match those from other local Leagues, they may make the final cut. While the usual process is for the state board to tally the input from all of the local Leagues and develop a proposal for the delegates at the biennial convention, it is possible to get a “non-recommended” issue approved by the convention, which is how we got the study of Higher Education (*see next page*). For a fascinating look at how this happened, which also explains why it's important to have LWVDV delegates in San Diego for the convention in June, you can check out the illustrated account at <http://lwvlamv.info/bold-new-members-pass-motion-to-study-uc-and-csu/>

We will also look at the current state positions and how they've been used and decide whether to recommend retention or changes. If you'd like to check out what is already happening with our positions, take a look at this link for [Summary and Use of LWVC Positions](#) – this is a great way to see our study results at work!

Local Meeting Planning

We've been stimulated and entertained by our series of Third Saturday meetings and there's more in store for 2015, thanks to a wonderful committee headed by Janet Thomas and Carole Woods. If you have topics that might make a good meeting, or a venue or speaker to suggest, you might want to join the committee at the next meeting, January 8 from 1-2 pm in the LWV Diablo Valley office (just before the Board meeting).



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.

LWVC Higher Education Study

Eleanor Yick, LWVC Study Chair

Public Higher Education in California is at a crossroads. Almost daily, there are news articles about public higher education and the need for reform in terms of accessibility, which includes funding, affordability, preparedness, equity, and opportunities & barriers for success. Unfortunately, because LWVC does not have a position on public higher education in California that includes the CSU and UC systems, the League cannot comment on or advocate for or against any legislation. This study was proposed and approved in order to remedy this situation and in recognition of the fact that education is the bedrock upon which democracy is built and sustained.

If your league intends to participate in the study, I would like to encourage you to bring together your **local education study committee by mid-February 2015** or, if that is not possible, within the next three months.

Would you like to participate in LWVDV's study committee? Please let us know at info@lwvdv.org or 925-283-2235!



FROM LWVUS:

Education Blog

The League of Women Voters Education Team blog is a forum to promote the exchange of information on school reform. We do fact-based studies. We encourage posts with reference citations that contribute to a better understanding of different points of view about school choice issues. The Blog Coordinator is Sue M. Legg, Ph.D. from Florida.

Subscribe to the League of Women Voters blog: Education Issues at: <http://lwveducation.com> We welcome participation from both members and non members.

Money in Politics Review and Constitutional Amendment Study Webpages

As we move forward with the Key Structures of Democracy program, the [Constitutional Amendment Study](#) webpage and the [Money in Politics](#) webpage can now be found on the LWVUS's Member Resources website.

These two webpages include information on the scope of the study and review as well as a list of the committee members. As study materials become available they will be posted on the pages as well.

VOTER SERVICE: Wrapping Up the Election Season, Part II

Pros and Cons

Kay James, Pros and Cons Chair

I wanted to extend a hearty thank you to all of the pros and cons volunteers who helped make presentations for the ballot measures in this past election a truly wonderful experience. The intense attention to accuracy by everyone who participated in explaining the ballot measures to the public was extraordinary, making all of us very proud of the whole process. The high caliber of information disseminated and shared between all members of the team was truly phenomenal. I'm hoping that all of you who participated in 2014 will come back and be a part of the 2016 team. Special thanks go to Ken Coates, Ann Flynn, Martha Goralka, Lee Lawrence, Diane Mader, Carol Murota, Marian Shostrom, Janet Thomas, Gwen Watson and Carol Woods.

We did a total of 14 presentations, which is a fair number considering it was not a presidential election.

However, speaking of 2016, I think the number of ballot measures may be much higher. I say this because the number of signatures required for a ballot measure to qualify is based on the number of voters in the last election. And, guess what? Voter turnout was exceptionally low for the 2014 election, so this will probably result in many more measures than usual qualifying for the ballot because fewer signatures will be needed for qualification. This is not particularly good news and will mean that we will have to work even harder to be informed on yet a larger number of measures, but I now know that we really do have some amazing League members to do this job!

LEAGUE OUTREACH

On Monday, November 3, Audrey Albrecht gave a presentation about founders of the LWV at the Lafayette Library, connected with a project a young home-schooler, Magdalena Meyers-Dahlkamp, with assistance from her mother, Rena, had prepared for a group of about fifteen friends and their parents. The presentation was timed to coincide with the election.



The program included a video about Esther Hall of Wyoming and her efforts to secure the vote for women there, which was acted out also by Magdalena. The efforts of Susan B. Anthony were recognized by a presentation by Rena in period costume. Audrey's talk went on from Anthony to Carrie Catt and Alice Paul and their efforts to get attention for suffrage. Audrey told about their early efforts in beginning and developing the League as an educational effort for the new women voters. She also distributed LWVDV membership forms to the parents present.

DONATE

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

**The League of Women Voters
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Current/past issues are posted on our [website](http://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.)*

Peggy Hall
Jan Howe

Robert Howe
Peggy Huston

Robin Peoples Klau
Dan Senter

Laurie Senter

Welcome, new member - Susan Dannenfelter of Lafayette!

Name change – Baika Pratt is now Baika Heaton



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!

Help Wanted!

I've enjoyed my years as office manager but feel the time has come for me to pass on the job to a younger member. Staffing the office is a main concern so mail and phone messages are properly handled.

There are many details to keeping the office running smoothly but they're easily accomplished and I'll be on hand to guide the new manager. I've found this job very rewarding and know one of you will too.

Barbara Owens



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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

- Jan. 6** **Action Comm.**
 2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Jan. 8** **Program Comm.**
 1-2 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Jan. 8** **Board Meeting**
 2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Jan. 17** **Building a**
 3-4:30 pm **Better BART**
 Cedar Room, Laf.
 Community Center
- Jan. 31** **Bay Area League**
 Day
 9:30 am - MetroCenter
 2:30 pm Oakland