



**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

See calendar, back page

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Friday, April 17**

**LWV Bay Area Climate Network**

1:30 – 3 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Rm

463 14<sup>th</sup> St, Oakland

**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 19**

**Special General Election**

**Saturday, June 20**

**LWVDV Annual Meeting**

10 a.m. – noon

Cedar Room

Lafayette Comm. Ctr.

## *Third Saturday Meeting*

### **MONEY IN POLITICS**



**April 18, 2015**

**Common Room  
Pleasant Hill Co-Housing  
2200 Lisa Lane, Pleasant Hill  
3 – 4:30 pm**

What is the state of campaign finance reform 5 years after the *Citizen's United* Supreme Court decision? What options are closed off, what avenues are open? What is happening to money in politics in California?

Lee Lawrence, government director for the League of Women Voters of California, and researcher Matthew Enger from UC Berkeley are leaders for our April Program.

We look forward to your presence, your questions, and your ideas for possible solutions for this top League priority!

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



## LEAGUE LEADER'S LETTER

*By Leslie Stewart, LWVDV President*

### Studies Show . . .

Well, what they often show is that League members don't really understand what is meant by "a League study", such as our current study on Access to Higher Education.

So here is your 2-minute tutorial! [*Hint: think college seminar*]

1. Delegates to a Convention or annual meeting agree on a topic – usually an issue where members want to take action but there is no existing position.
2. A study committee is formed to put together a "curriculum" of common reading materials and a set of questions that everyone will answer that will summarize the conclusions of the group.
3. If this is a state or national study, local study committees are formed so members have their own local "study group" for discussions and input.
4. For several months, the study committee members read and discuss; they find experts to talk to or field trips to take, share information and discuss some more.
5. A "consensus meeting" is held where the local committee members act as expert presenters and all the members are invited to listen, discuss and help to answer the final questions. This is serious business, but more fun than a final exam!
6. The answers to the questions are compiled into a set of conclusions – for a local study this often starts at the consensus meeting, but for a study where many local Leagues participate, this can be complicated! The set of conclusions is then approved by the appropriate Board, and sometimes is discussed at a Convention.
7. The conclusions become a new (or updated) position on the issue, and these are the statements we use when we consider how we will do our advocacy and what we will say about the issue. Study committee members become our experts!

We have our first guidance packets from the study on higher education – our first "reading lists" and other information. If you want to be part of the "study group", it's time to sign up and meet your study partners!

### **Thank you, thank you!!**

Our Treasurer reports that we've received many donations in response to our annual request, and a number of the checks are very generous! We look forward to putting them to good use!

P.S. We are sending a similar letter to non-members this year. This list includes friends, local candidates for elected office, and other community partners. If you know of someone who should be on this list, either as a potential member or potential donor, please e-mail [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) with the information.

## VOTER SERVICE -- Special Election News!!

### More Forums!

We have a run-off! 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.



Within days of the March 17 election, the League was setting up meetings with partners for a televised forum with the two candidates. In addition to the Contra Costa Times, the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley is again partnering with Betsy Burkhart and Chris Verdugo from CCTV, and Joe Canciamilla, County Clerk for Contra Costa County, and his associates Paul Burgarino and Lori Haywood. The forum will be taped on April 24 at 11 a.m. at CCTV studios in Martinez.

Our League has also been asked to co-sponsor two live candidate forums, one with the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association and the other with the 32<sup>nd</sup> District PTA. These are tentatively scheduled in the first two weeks of April. **We will need timers and assistants for all of these forums** – please let Gwen Watson know if you can help! You can also call the League office or e-mail [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org).

More information, including a map of District 7, is available at <http://www.cocovote.us/press-releases/special-election-called-for-this-spring/>. (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**  
*Marian Shostrum, Smart Voter Co-Chair*

League members are encouraged to spread the word that the place to find information about candidates and ballot measures is [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org), where LWV volunteers post information about future elections, and candidates post information about themselves and their positions.

Be sure to spread the word about Smart Voter for the May 5th San Ramon Valley Unified School District parcel tax election, and the May 19th Senate District 7 runoff election between Susan Bonilla and Steve Glazer.

## Mail Out the Vote – in Color

Carol Murota, Vice-President

We have 2 special elections coming up in our League area and many of you will be finding ballots in your mail for them. Here are a couple of tips to make your voting quick and easy:

1. District 7 runoff to replace Mark DeSaulnier in State Senate District 7.  
If you are voting by mail in the District 7 run-off, be aware that the ballot for the contest between Susan Bonilla and Steven Glazer to replace Mark DeSaulnier must be mailed in the *lavender* envelope. It can be dropped in the RED Ballot boxes at local city halls or mailed and post marked by May 19, 2015.
2. Parcel tax renewal for San Ramon Valley Unified School District.  
If you are voting on the San Ramon Valley parcel tax, this is a mail-in ballot only and must be returned in the *mint green* envelope. It needs to be postmarked by May 5, 2015.



### PS – Do You Love Elections?

LWV members get perks at election time – contact [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) if you're interested in a demonstration of vote-counting equipment, mail-ballot processing, or observing mail-ballot counting on election night!

## LWV PROGRAM

### LWVUS: Structures of Democracy Study

#### Money in Politics Forum Up and Running

The Money in Politics Forum is now active for League members who are interested in discussing the Money in Politics review and update. Barbara Zia, MIP Committee Chair will moderate the forum. To sign up, go to the Member Resources Site ([forum.lwv.org](http://forum.lwv.org)), sign in and join the Money in Politics Forum (listed under Forums in the black navigation bar). If you have already signed up for the Money in Elections Forum, that has now been combined with Money in Politics, so there is no need to register. You may also reach Barbara directly at [MIPCommitteeChair@lwv.org](mailto:MIPCommitteeChair@lwv.org).

### LWVC: Access to Higher Education Study

The study packet is posted on the Study's webpage (<http://lwvc.org/study/education-0>). Recommended background readings include the Little Hoover Commission Report, California Competes: the Road Ahead, and information about the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education. The LWVC study committee has lots of good suggestions for us!

## LWV ADVOCACY

### Local: San Ramon Valley School Parcel Tax Renewal

At the March meeting, the LWVDV Board approved the recommendation of the Action Committee to **support** the renewal of the parcel tax for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. The mail-ballot election will conclude on May 5, 2015.

### California: Making "Motor Voter" Actually Work

*Carol Murota, Vice-President*

95 years after women won the right to vote, the League continues to work on Voting Rights!

Surprisingly, California's voter registration and participation is among the lowest in the country. In February 2015, the League of Women Voters of California took the lead in a coalition that alerted Secretary of State Padilla that the California Department of Motor Vehicles was out of compliance with the National Voting Rights Act. California's Motor Voter program was designed to make registering your vehicle, getting or updating your license, and updating your voter registration a 'one stop' convenience. This process hasn't been working.



On March 24, 2015, Secretary Padilla, long a supporter of increased voter participation, issued a statement affirming that an easier registration system is an achievable goal. The League will be following progress on this important voter registration opportunity.

### California: Healthcare Equality

The Health4All Coalition and the AllCare Alliance (of which LWV California is a partner) are sponsoring a march, rally and lobby day April 12-13 in Sacramento in support of Healthcare Equality. **Please come!** The groups will be lobbying on two issues:

- Support for the Health For All Act SB 4 to extend coverage to the remaining uninsured/undocumented
- Support the right to universal, comprehensive, high quality and publicly-funded (single payer) healthcare for everyone

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> will be a Leadership & Training Conference, and Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> will include visits with state legislators, and a march, rally, demonstration and press conference at the Capitol. For more information: <http://pnhpcalifornia.org>

### US: Money Money Money

*Carol Murota, Vice-President*

LWVUS is encouraging legislators to co-sponsor two new DISCLOSE Acts, HR 430 (Van Hollen, MD) and S 229 (Whitehouse, RI, with 42 co-sponsors). Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer are both co-sponsors. You can thank them via email at <http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/> or <https://www.boxer.senate.gov/>

## In Memoriam:

### Alpha Quincy - Hospitality and Compelling Speaker

Gwen Watson



I always looked forward to working with Alpha each election cycle. She was an accomplished Candidates' Forum Moderator who became an expert on each position being sought. That assured us that the questions she asked, and the ones the audience provided, were incisive and geared to getting clear answers. It also meant that the candidates knew she was well informed and yet fair. Her warm, friendly "Alpha Quincy style" with bright eyes and a smile helped put the participants at ease.

Pros & Cons presentation was probably Alpha's favorite Voter Service project. She was, for several years, the Pro-Con Trainer for Diablo Valley League. She began researching each ballot measure well before inviting her team members to the kickoff meeting. That meeting wasn't only business. When we arrived at her lovely home on one of the Lafayette hilltops, she and Polly, her friendly Labrador, would be outdoors to welcome us. Then we'd be treated to fresh-baked hot scones and spice tea, as we shared the latest legislative news. Then we'd get down to serious training. She taught us how to make our Pro-Con Scripts short and to the point so we'd keep the audience's interest and attention. She coached us to find colorful words to make an impression that would stick. In a word, she made sure we had fun learning how to be speakers and our audience enjoyed learning to be informed voters.



I'll miss my friend, but her spirit will continue to be part of my Voter Service life.

*[Editor's Note: As many of you know, Alpha's lifelong love was education and she brought that love to the League. When she found that LWVDV didn't have a position that would allow us to address some local education financing issues, Alpha spearheaded a study and special consensus meeting to create the needed position and make LWVDV a timely voice in the debate.]*

### Jean Mosheim – Longtime Member

Jean recently passed away in Walnut Creek, at the age of 105. She was a 50-year member of the League of Women Voters.

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### Thank you to our Cuba Delegation!

Our Cuba travellers – Julianna Boyle, Mary Fenelon, Ann Flynn, Gwen Watson and Amy Worth – gave us a wonderful presentation on their experiences at our March meeting. More LWV Cuba trips are planned – please e-mail [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) for more info.



**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.)*

Joseph Egri

Carol Sebilias

Lori Stevens

**Welcome to our newest member --Jane Russell, Pittsburg!**



**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!***



Whether you attended, and would like the record, or you missed it and wished you'd been able to go, here is what you've been waiting for!

### **Bay Area League Day 2015: Climate Change**

The speaker videos, along with the question and answer sets for the keynote and each panel, are now available for viewing:

<http://www.lwvbayarea.org/documents.html>



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 500 St. Mary's Road, #14  
 Lafayette, CA 94549

**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**

- Apr. 7** **Action Comm.**  
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Apr. 9** **Board Meeting**  
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Apr. 18** **Third Saturday Meeting**  
3-4:30 pm  
Common Room,  
Pleasant Hill Co-  
Housing, 2200  
Lisa Lane, PH
- May 12** **Action Comm.**  
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- May 14** **Board Meeting**  
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- May 9** **"Third" Saturday Meeting**  
3-4:30 pm  
Lafayette