

Gearing up for April 29 All-City Luncheon

On Tuesday, April 29 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the League of Women Voters of Oakland will celebrate its 23rd Annual All-City Luncheon, aptly titled “Building Citizens for the Future.” Invitations were mailed to League members and community leaders on March 20. Send us your response card and a check or visit www.lwvoakland.org and click on the link to a page where you can pay for tickets with your credit card.

This fundraising and networking event, our largest single-event fundraiser, allows us to continue to present exceptional education programs and provide our members and the general public with non-biased, well-researched information that affects them, their neighborhoods, and their city, all free of charge.

Last year’s Luncheon in the Pavilion at Scott’s raised nearly \$20,000! With these funds, we reached hundreds of households, schools, and businesses with *Who Represents Oakland*, our guide to local, regional, state, and national government, and our *Oakland Easy Voter Guide*, a non-partisan snapshot of issues, candidates, and election information for the voters of Oakland, provided in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Our monthly *Voter* newsletter gives our readers up-to-date information on League-sponsored events and other activities. Your participation



Tani Cantil-Sakauye



Belva Davis

in this year’s event will enable us to expand and enhance our programs, register more voters, and continue to build citizen participation in the democratic process.

Our speaker, the Honorable Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California, will have an open and candid conversation with Emmy Award-winning television and radio journalist Belva Davis.

Tickets are on sale now! Make your reservations soon, as we’re likely to sell out again this year. Use your invitation response card or go to www.lwvoakland.org. Questions? Leave a message at (510) 834-7640 or send an email to league@lwvoakland.org.

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President's Message

Have you been talking with friends, colleagues, and neighbors about the League? I fervently hope so: personal one-to-one connections are the best way to spread awareness and grow membership. Don't forget to tell them about the amazing range and diversity of our work. We don't just register voters (although that is an essential and wonderfully satisfying job). Making democracy work in our community encompasses so much.



Katherine Gavzy

democratic society welcomes immigrants as participating members; come to our May 14 program and hear how this is working for Oakland. More about it on page four. Education, especially education for civic engagement, is another way to make democracy work. The theme of our 23rd annual All-City Luncheon says it all: "Building Citizens for the Future." The youthful presence of many Oakland

students among the guests and awardees at this luncheon will make it a different and exciting event. I recommend buying your ticket now; we sell out every year. And as always, bring a friend.

The League is active on all fronts: locally, regionally, and statewide. Our own Action Committee is a key player in efforts to strengthen the democratic process in Oakland; see the report on the next page. LWV also takes positions on issues affecting the quality of life in Alameda County and the Bay Area, such as public transportation and public health. See Judi Banks' summary on page five, and if you are

Consider the contents of this Voter. A healthy



Terry Kulka
~~7~~ **8** LWV members have entrusted me with the sale of their homes – let's make yours ~~7~~ **8** ~~9~~
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interested in getting more involved with regional League, contact her at InterLeague@lwvoakland.org. We are especially proud of our State League for being part of a lawsuit to protect voters rights: see “Your State League in Action” on page six.

All these varied activities and programs have one thing in common – they need your input.

Membership Chair Louise Rothman-Riemer, on page six, asks members to tell us about topics that interest them. Who do you want to hear from at our Annual Meeting on June 4? Contact Program Chair Yolanda Schonbrun (program@lwvoakland.org) to suggest a speaker who will be timely and relevant.

- Katherine Gavzy

Action Committee Report

The League has been participating in weekly meetings to draft the outline of the proposal to create an Independent Redistricting Commission for Oakland. We envision a 13-member commission comprising Oakland residents. Perhaps the thorniest issues have to do with the selection process. Who makes the selection from among qualified applicants? How do we ensure that the commission reflects the diversity of Oakland? These sorts of questions and some alternatives will be put before a community meeting from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. on April 30 (venue TBA). Please put this meeting on your calendar and be there to join the discussion.

Keep in mind that we will be asking the City

Council to put this proposed charter amendment on the ballot for November. It’s not too soon to ask your councilmembers for their vote. No one is prepared to organize and fund a signature gathering campaign, and we are going to have to work hard to get the five Council votes we will need.

The Measure Y successor proposal will not mention Measure Y; it is the Public Safety Initiative. Councilmember McElhaney is heading up the Council effort, while a broad-based committee to draft the proposal and organize the necessary campaign is well into its work. The League recognizes the need for continued funding and is participating in these meetings, but we will wait to see the actual proposal

before making a recommendation for official support.

Councilmember Dan Kalb is preparing a “good government” package to go before the Council and, to the extent charter amendments are needed, the voters. Included are measures to give the PEC greater authority to enforce local campaign and lobbying laws – measures we have advocated for some time. Action Committee members have met with him to review drafts of his proposals and offer suggestions. We will review each proposal as it is completed and make any recommendation for action to the LWVO board.

- Mary Bergan



On February 26, LWVO addressed broadening participation in city government with the help of guest speakers Susan Stuart Clark of Common Knowledge and Steve Spiker of Open Oakland.

LWVO to Consider Immigration May 14

Join the League for a discussion of how US immigration reform will impact California, featuring speakers Rob Bonta, state assemblymember for District 18; Gabriela Villareal, policy manager for the California Immigrant Policy Center; and Kiran Savage-Sangwan of Oakland's ACLU.

national immigration reform policies and how California could be affected. We will use a panel format, with opportunity to ask questions at the end.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14 in Oakland City Hall's Hearing



Rob Bonta



Gabriela Villareal



Kiran Savage-Sangwan

Room 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. Street and garage parking are available.

LWVUS and Immigration

In the 111th Congress, the LWVUS lobbied in support of the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act that would provide a path to citizenship for young immigrants who complete a college degree or serve in the military, thereby enabling them to be a fully productive part of American society. The legislation passed the House, but lacked enough votes to overcome a filibuster in the senate.

The National Board of LWVUS announced the following Statement of Position on Immigration in April 2008:

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsible to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crisis. Provisions should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

Criteria for Legal Admissions to the United States

The League supports the following criteria for legal admissions of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor

children with authorized immigrants or citizens;

- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crisis in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the United States;
- Education and training needs of the United States;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League Supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders

LWV Bay Area Supports Commute Program

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area made a statement before the Bay Area Air Quality Management District supporting a pilot program in the Bay Area that would require employers with 50 or more full-time employees to select one of four commuter benefit options. Included is the option to design their own alternative commuter benefit that would be similarly as effective as the other three options.

The League has long favored measures that are designed to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and single-occupancy vehicle use, as well as programs to reduce the impact of air pollution. More recently, we place high priority on reducing carbon and other emissions from vehicles that worsen air quality and contribute to climate change. We support efforts to attain reductions of greenhouse gases in the Bay Area to meet the targets that have been established.

By promoting the use of alternative commute modes, this Commuter Benefits Program will decrease drive-alone commute trips to Bay Area worksites, thereby reducing traffic congestion and improving the speed of traffic flow during peak commute periods, thus reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and criteria air pollutants.

The program was developed through a commendable process which included substantial outreach to businesses and public hearings around the Bay Area. The pilot program will produce a report to the Legislature, including measurements of the extent to which the intended objectives of reduced emissions or air pollutants, decreased traffic congestion, and reduced greenhouse gases were achieved.

- LWV Bay Area Board of Directors

County Council and InterLeague Reports

The Alameda County Council (Leagues in Alameda, Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, Eden Area, Fremont/Newark/Union City, Oakland, and Piedmont) met in February. Highlights from the meeting included:

- There was interest in developing a joint calendar for Election Activities. LWV Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville will set up a Google calendar.
- The Alameda County Council has a contract with the Registrar of Voters to distribute Voter Registration Affidavits. There will be some changes in the new contract. Voter Registration on line will be promoted.
- There was interest in holding a pre-Convention meeting of Leagues that are planning to go to the LWVUS Convention in June.
- There is concern about new legislation forbidding advocacy in public places that could affect Leagues meeting in libraries and other public buildings.
- Discussion of Alameda County Measure AA

(Extension of 2004 Measure A Sales Tax for Healthcare Services through 2019). Leagues need to vote to support or not. This measure will be on the June ballot.

- There was discussion of the new Measure B (County Transportation Tax), which will be on the November Ballot.
- Ann Ravel will be the speaker at a meeting on "Dark Money in Politics" on May 12 at Cal State Bay Area.

Representatives from Leagues in the northern Bay Area meet alternate months to discuss regional issues as part of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area's InterLeague North meetings. At the February meeting, it was announced that links to videos of Bay Area League Day are posted at www.lwvbayarea.org, and that the LWVBA Convention will be Saturday, May 3 at the Bay Model in Sausalito.

- Judi Bank

Building the League for the Future

This year the Membership Committee will be working hard to build the League for the future by focusing on young professionals who want to be civically engaged. In fact, we have a very special offer to make:

JOIN THE LEAGUE AND COME TO THE ALL CITY LUNCHEON APRIL 29 ON US!

Two of our long-time League members have agreed to host tables at the luncheon for young professionals. As of now we have at least 16 seats available to grow our League.

If you are a young professional (we call young under 40) or you (as a Voter newsletter recipient and already a League member) know a young person who would be a likely League member, we want them to join our League. We really are looking for young people who are interested in civic engagement or who you think would be interested in such activities

to take us into the future. Memberships are easy to do online, just go to the “Join us” page of our website (www.lwvoakland.org/joinlwvo.html) and add in the comments box “Young Professionals for the League” and we will seat the new member at one of these special tables (memberships must be received by April 20 to qualify). Gift memberships are a great idea and a wonderful way to introduce family and friends to the League. We especially think young professionals will enjoy the conversation that Belva Davis will have with California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, whose great interest has been focused on bringing our youth into civic engagement.

Building a League that engages young professionals and other young people means we need to know from you what issues excite you. What would you like to have discussed at a Hot Topics or at a Program meeting? We would like input from people of all ages about what they want the
(continued next page)

LWVC Joins Lawsuit to Protect Voting Rights

LWV California has joined with the ACLU of California and the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area in charging the state with unconstitutionally stripping tens of thousands of people of their right to vote.

According to the lawsuit, filed in Alameda County Superior Court, the state’s actions clearly violated state law when the Secretary of State issued a directive to local elections officials in December 2011 asserting that people are ineligible to vote if they are on post-release community supervision or mandatory supervision. These are two new and innovative forms of community-based supervision created under California’s Criminal Justice Realignment Act for people recently incarcerated for low-level, non-violent, non-serious crimes.

After California voters in 1974 approved Proposition 10, state law has been clear that the only

people ineligible to vote in California are those who are in state prison or on parole.

“The Secretary of State should be working to increase voter participation, not to undermine it,” said Michael Risher, a staff attorney with the ACLU of Northern California. “Voting should be part of a successful reintegration into one’s community, but the Secretary of State’s memo takes us in the wrong direction,” said Jennifer Waggoner, president of the League of Women Voters of California. “People of color are being disenfranchised and thousands of voters and county officials are being confused about their voting rights. The strength of our democracy comes from allowing everyone to fulfill their civic responsibility to vote.” The League has been fighting for expanded voting rights for all since 1920, when it was founded by the activists who secured the right to vote for women.

- LWV California

(from previous page)

League to cover. Yolanda Schonbrun is our Program Chair and she wants to hear from you. E-mail her your thoughts at yolandashonbrun2@yahoo.com. We all would appreciate your input.

Help us, help our community, and build our Oakland League for our future. If you want more information about our offer for young professionals, you can contact Louise Rothman-Riemer, Membership Chair, at Louise@dhrcounsel.com, or give her a call at (510) 596-2580.

- Louise Rothman-Riemer

Membership Updates

Welcome New Members:

Rose Haynes

Ashley James

Welcome Back

Georgia Frazier

Join our social network!



twitter.com/LWV_Oakland



facebook.com/lwvoak

Go Green: Access the Voter Online

Our Voter newsletter is published 10 times a year, both online and on paper. The online Voter comes in two versions: a PDF version, and the HTML version you have been reading all along. Please e-mail Communications Committee Chair Leslie Smith at communications@lwvoakland.org if you would like to go green and only receive the Voter in an electronic version, saving the League a stamp and a few trees.

SHARE THIS WITH A FRIEND – INVITE THEM TO JOIN US!

Membership in the League of Women Voters of Oakland is a bargain and a statement. It's a bargain because you will have access to valuable information and insights via the Voter newsletters and LWV websites, through membership not only in LWVO but also in LWV Bay Area, LWV California and LWVUS, and via a variety of events and dialogues with key leaders throughout the year.

Your statement as a League member will be that you are committed to providing non-biased, well-researched information to voters, and that the issues your League follows are those that affect every area in Oakland: schools, public safety, local government, parks, our economy, and more.

Join the League, one of the nation's most trusted, nonpartisan grassroots organizations where "hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement."

Individual Membership (\$65) Each additional member at an address (\$32.50)

Student membership (\$25) Limited Income (\$10 minimum)

Susan B. Anthony Membership (\$100) Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership (\$250)

Carrie Chapman Catt Membership (\$500) Other

Name/Names: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Day phone: _____ Evening: _____ E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to LWVO, and mail to 1305 Franklin Street #311, Oakland CA 94612-3222.

Dues are not tax deductible.



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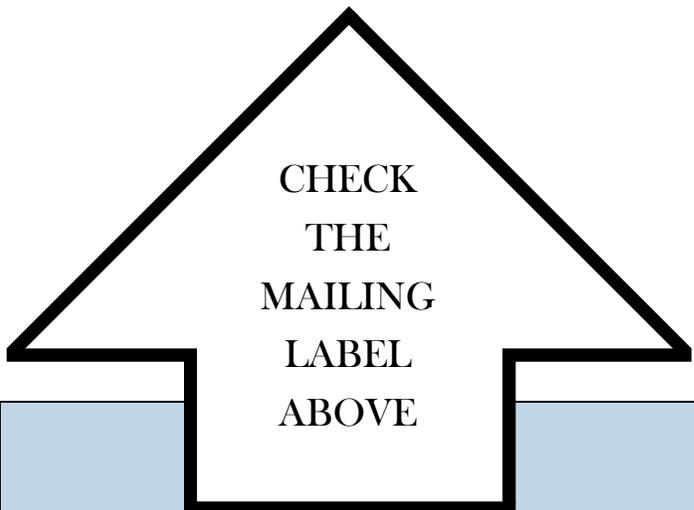
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CALENDAR

Monday, April 14 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	St. Paul's Towers 17th Floor Library 100 Bay Place Oakland, CA 94610
Tuesday, April 29 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Annual All-City Luncheon	Scott's Seafood Restaurant Jack London Square 2 Broadway Oakland, CA 94607
Wednesday, May 14 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Immigration Meeting	Oakland City Hall Hearing Room 3 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza Oakland, CA 94612



Is there a date at the top of it?
 If there is no date, you are not a member of the League.
 Join, using the form on page 7 and send it with a check to the League office.
 Or, visit www.lwvoakland.org/joinlwvo.html to pay your dues using a credit card.