

Help the League with Program Planning

Saturday, January 25, 2014

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Light refreshments served

Cesar Chavez Library

3301 E 12th Street, Suite 271

Between 33rd and 34th avenues

Oakland, California

(Free parking at Fruitvale BART Station)



Use the insert in this newsletter to prepare for the meeting

League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action. It includes both adopted positions upon which action is taken as well as issues for study that will lead to a position and action.

This year we are reviewing National and Bay Area League positions and updating our local Education Position. At the 2012 Program Planning, the LWVO

approved a limited update for our local education position. The League's Education Committee has since met every month to review the local position. At this year's Program Planning meeting, the League will get to decide how the position is updated. Come and be part of this exciting League process! We will also agree on Issues for Emphasis to be presented to the membership at our Annual Meeting. Please join us in this effort!

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President's Message

Can you believe it is already 2014? We face a new year that is both exciting and a little daunting. Exciting because many of the projects begun in 2013 will really take off in the coming year. The Action Committee worked to ensure the City Council's redistricting process was fair, transparent, and open to public input. Now in 2014 we will focus on writing and passing a ballot measure to give Oakland an independent citizens commission for the next redistricting, modeled on California's groundbreaking commission.

In 2013 we energetically supported greater power for Oakland's Public Ethics Commission. As a member of the Ethics and Good Government Working Group we helped draft proposals for tougher guidelines for ethical conduct, open government, lobbyist registration, and fair campaign financing. Now in 2014 look for our calls to action, and come to public hearings aiming to translate this groundwork into true improvement for our city government.



Katherine Gavzy

It is so important to have many League members present at these meetings.

You can also make a difference by coming to the annual Program Planning on January 25. Spend a few hours on Saturday morning with fellow Leaguers as we review the LWVUS and LWV Bay Area policy positions and reach consensus on an updated local Education position (see insert in this newsletter). This is a

good opportunity for new members to see how League works, enjoy a lively discussion, and have an impact.

Now let's get back to that word "daunting." This will be one of those big election years: starting this summer Voter Service volunteers will be busy with mayoral and Council and school district Candidate Forums, ballot measure "pros and cons" presentations, and voter registration drives. If you want to learn more, contact Judy Merrill (voterservice@lwvoakland.org). After all, Voter Service is why many of us joined the League in the first place.

- Katherine Gavzy

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Action Committee Report

Now that redistricting for 2014 has been completed, the committee is working on a charter amendment to establish an independent citizens commission to draw the lines next time. We had a brainstorming session to identify issues that need to be addressed in the proposed amendment and to put on the table ideas for how to select the commission. We are also working with others and Councilmember Dan Kalb to bring a proposal to the City Council. We are agreed that the commission, not the Council, will have the final word on district lines, and that city redistricting will be done in years ending with the numeral 1.

The League is finally seeing progress on the adoption of a records management policy. The Public Ethics Commission has reviewed a draft policy prepared by the City Clerk, and it is on its way to the appropriate Council committees.

Committee members are building on their own research and on information and comments from the December Hot Topics discussion to put together suggestions on what should be included in a Measure Y extension.

Measure Y was passed by Oakland voters in 2004 to fund violence prevention programs, additional police officers, and fire services. Implementation of Measure Y became quite controversial when Mayor Dellums diverted funds designated for problem solving officers to pay for a police academy, and the city auditor issued a report critical of the city's handling of the violence prevention programs. Funding runs out at the end of 2014, and Mayor

Quan and City Councilmembers are hoping to have it renewed.

LWVO's December 4 Hot Topics meeting focused primarily on the violence prevention programs, and left participants fairly well assured that early problems had been addressed. Sara Bedford, Policy and Planning Manager in the city's Department of Human Services (DHS), opened by describing what has been done and outlining the city's focus on Oakland's highest risk individuals and neighborhoods. City Auditor Courtney Ruby praised DHS for a near-perfect response to the audit and for instituting performance requirements and measures for the Measure Y programs.

DHS is home base for Oakland Unite, which brings together community-based organizations, public agencies, and residents to use "proven and effective means to create one City, one peace, and one future." Program strategies are youth services, family violence prevention, re-entry services, and crisis intervention. The city has leveraged Measure Y funds to bring in additional grants, and has received recognition for several of its programs. You can get a more complete picture at www.oaklandunite.org.

Also on hand for the evening were the chair of the Measure Y Oversight Committee (which probably needs a redefinition of its role) and firefighters who put in a good word for the renewal of Measure Y, which provides for two fire stations.

If you have ideas for what should be in a new Measure Y, please e-mail action@lwvoakland.org.

- Mary Bergan

Next Hot Topic: Public Safety and Private Lives

How does a city like Oakland respond to residents' demands for more effective crime prevention and reduction while protecting everyone's civil liberties? How will the Domain Awareness Center impact Oakland? How much surveillance is enough – or too much – to enhance our law enforcement capabilities? Bring your ideas and a friend to discuss these important issues with knowledgeable resource people and fellow Oaklanders. We will meet on Wednesday, January 22 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce boardroom at 475 14th Street.

LWVO Celebrates the Holiday Season

On the evening of December 13, Oakland Leaguers gathered for a party at the home of Louise Rothman-Riemer to celebrate the holiday season. Members brought food and drink in potluck style, furnishing a yummy spread full of sweet and savory delights.

In addition to the engaging conversation, a highlight of the party was a raffle among qualifying members who had submitted interest surveys with their membership renewals. Lucky winners included Katherine Oberle, who received a one-month guest

pass to Club One gym at City Center; Bonnie Hamlin, who received a Diesel Books gift certificate; and Annmarie Hallin, who won LWV stationery. Jafar Zaidi took the grand prize, a free guest ticket to the 2014 All-City Luncheon at Scott's Pavilion in Jack London Square on April 29, an event that will feature California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye speaking about the importance of civic education, and will include the presentation of several Making Democracy Work awards.

- LWVO, with photos by Alec MacDonald



Bill Threlfall, Earl Hamlin,
and Davis Riemer



Sandy Threlfall, Joey Hansell,
and Suzanne Loosen



Louise Anderson
and Judy Merrill



Jay
MacDonald



Nancy Auker
and Sandy Venning

LWV Bay Area Unveils League Day Lineup

Speakers have been chosen for “A New Vision for Bay Area Open Space,” this year’s program for LWV Bay Area’s annual Bay Area League Day forum on Saturday, February 1 in Oakland.

The keynote address will be delivered by Wendy Pulling, director of conservation programs at The Nature Conservancy in California. She will be followed by “Progress in Open Space Preservation,” a panel including Greenbelt Alliance Executive Director Jeremy Madsen, California State Coastal Conservancy Executive Officer Samuel Schuchat, and East Bay Regional Park District Board Member Beverly Lane. A second panel, entitled “Economic Benefits of Open Space – Ecosystem Survey Santa Clara Valley and Sonoma County,” will feature Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority General Manager Andrea Mackenzie and Karen Gaffney, Conservation

Planning Program Manager with the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. The event will conclude with “Future Challenges,” a panel with ESAPWA Senior Engineering Hydrologist Matt Brennan and Jenn Fox, Executive Director of the Bay Area Open Space Council.

League Day will be held in the MetroCenter Auditorium at 101 Eighth Street. Registration and breakfast begin at 9:30 a.m., with the program to follow from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration is \$35 prepaid (\$20 without lunch) and \$40 at the door (\$25 without lunch). Online registration may be completed at www.lwvbayarea.org (under “Calendar”). To register by mail, write a check payable to “LWV Bay Area” and mail it to 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.

- LWV Bay Area

Setting National Legislative Priorities for 2014

In January, the LWVUS Board of Directors will be setting the League Legislative Priorities for the upcoming year. Setting these priorities for LWVUS action at the national level is an annual responsibility for the Board. Once again, the Board is soliciting suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities from members. If you are interested in making suggestions to the Board, please consider the goals and criteria as listed below.

According to the LWVUS Impact on Issues, the goals for setting priorities to guide the LWV advocacy work are to (1) Enhance the League’s effectiveness by concentrating resources on priority issues; (2) Build the League’s credibility and visibility by projecting a focused and consistent image; (3) Ensure that the League has sufficient issue and political expertise to act knowledgeably; and (4) Enable the League to manage resources effectively. In setting legislative priorities, the Board considers (1) Opportunities for the League to make an impact;

(2) Program decisions made at Convention and/or Council; (3) Member interest; and (4) Resources available to manage effectively.

If you have suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities, e-mail Advocacy Committee Chair Toni Larson at toni.larson@gmail.com. We urge all our LWV members to send an individual e-mail, identifying yourself as a member of LWV Oakland, California, with your suggestions. Suggestions must be received by January 11.

- Katherine Gavzy



BRE# 00875454



Terry Kulka

8 LWV members have entrusted me with the sale of their homes – let's make yours #8 #9

(510) 682-5917

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www.TerryKulka.com

Leaguers Spend a Day in Lake County with California Women for Agriculture

The InterLeague Agriculture Update Committee of the East Bay, which is meeting to study for the consensus questions we will be receiving from LWVUS on the national agriculture position, spent an informative day in Lake County in late November as guests of California Women for Agriculture. We heard a full day of presentations on issues relating to water and agriculture, integrated pest management, regulations, and what it's like to be a farmer. We also visited Chacewater Winery & Olive Mill and had an olive oil processing tour.

To join our study group as we prepare for the upcoming LWVUS agriculture policy consensus process, e-mail bayareatrishag@gmail.com.

- Trisha Gorman



Toasting with award-winning Lake County wines. From back left: Cynthia Landy (LWV Diablo Valley), Judi Bank (LWVO), Carol Stone (LWV BAE), Lianne Campodonico (LWV Piedmont), Janice Blumenkrantz (LWV BAE), Ashley Coates (LWV Diablo Valley), and Nancy Parker (LWV BAE). From front left: Jessica Berry (Lake County resident), Betsy King (LWV Piedmont), Trisha Gorman (LWVO), and Sandy Venning (LWVO).

photo courtesy of Trisha Gorman

League Usage of Your Contact Information

We are soon going to be printing an updated 2014 Member Roster/Handbook. As with every updated version, the Member Roster/Handbook will then be mailed to each LWVO member household.

We would like you to please tell us if you would prefer NOT to have some of your contact information listed in the Member Roster/Handbook.

The Member Roster/Handbook is not currently posted on the League's website, but we may post it in the future on a members only section of our website. If we did, access to it would be password protected.

In the printed version of our Voter, we currently list contact information for new members and changes of contact information for current members. We do not include these updates in the online version of the Voter.

If you have concerns about the League's use of your contact information, please let us know of your concerns and how you would like us to respond. Either send your request to the League office (1305 Franklin Street, Suite 311, Oakland, CA 94612-3222), e-mail us at league@lwvoakland.org, or call the office at (510) 834-7640 and leave a message.

Thanks from the Membership Committee.

- Bonnie Hamlin

“Each One Bring One” to Grow Our League

The Membership Committee is requesting that you, our faithful League members, actively participate in our “Each One Bring One Campaign.” For this campaign, each time you attend a League event, please bring along a friend or colleague who you think might be interested in the League. The Membership Committee will then be happy to talk to your friend or colleague about joining the League. How active people wish to become depends on how much time they have. Becoming a member and supporting the League with your dues is important, but if you have more time, we have many activities that we could use help on. We need to grow our League so we can be more effective.

To do that we need your help. So please bring a friend and grow the League.

- Louise Rothman-Riemer

Welcome New Members

Bryan Parker

Kathryn Sterbenc

Jorge Lerma

Linda Olvera

Join our social network!



twitter.com/LWV_Oakland



facebook.com/lwvoak

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.”

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership (\$65) | <input type="checkbox"/> Each additional member at an address (\$32.50) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student membership (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income (\$10 minimum) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan B. Anthony Membership (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership (\$250) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrie Chapman Catt Membership (\$500) | <input type="checkbox"/> 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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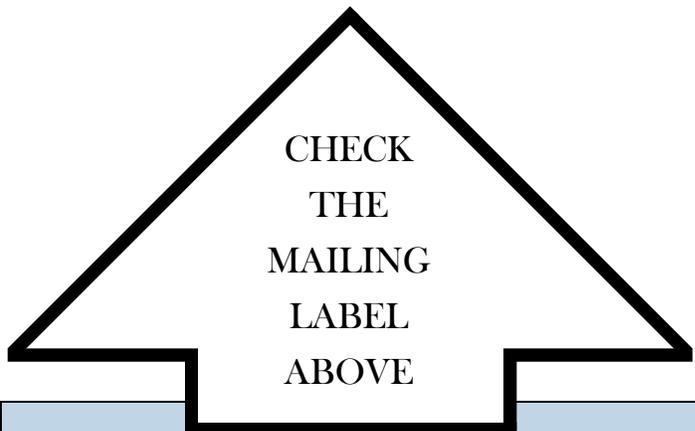
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CALENDAR

Monday, January 13 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	St. Paul's Towers 17th Floor Library 100 Bay Place Oakland, CA 94610
Wednesday, January 22 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Hot Topic: Public Safety & Private Lives	Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce 475 14th Street Oakland, CA 94612
Saturday, January 25 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Program Planning	Cesar Chavez Library 3301 E 12th Street Suite 271 Oakland, CA 94601



Is there a date at the top of it?
 If so, is the date 06/30/2013 or earlier?
 If there's no date, or if there is a date but it's 6/30/2013 or earlier, you are not a member of the League.
 Renew your membership 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.