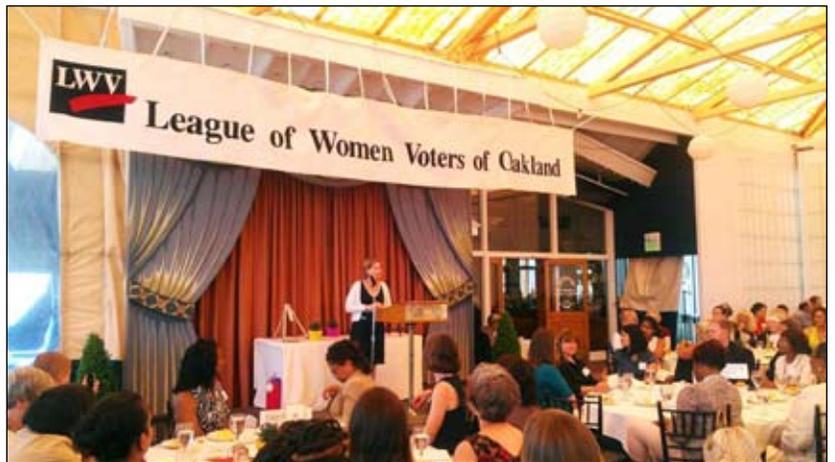




## The Annual All-City Luncheon and You

Our All-City Luncheon—this year featuring Chief Justice of California Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye in conversation about “Building Citizens for the Future” with award-winning journalist Belva Davis — will be Tuesday, April 29 in the Pavilion at Scott’s Seafood Restaurant in Jack London Square from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

We will present Making Democracy Work Awards to Maryann Wolfe, social science and Paideia teacher at Oakland Tech High School, and to the Bay Area Urban Debate League.



There are several ways in which you can be involved in this special event:

1) Plan to attend!

- a) Underwrite a table. For details, see the pledge form at [www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org).
- b) Buy a ticket for yourself and a friend.
- c) Make a contribution.

2) Spend an hour or two on Wednesday, March 19 helping us prepare the invitations to be mailed to a couple thousand people. This is a fun way to meet other League members and help make a large task manageable.

3) Volunteer to help out on the day of the Luncheon — if you are planning to buy a ticket, we would welcome your assistance with:

- a) Placing flowers and handouts on the tables before the guests arrive.
- b) Helping people find the registration tables.
- c) Registering guests.
- d) Helping people find their tables.

To offer to help with the mailing party or on the day of the Luncheon, please call the League office at (510) 834-7640 or send an e-mail to [league@lwvoakland.org](mailto:league@lwvoakland.org).

## Contents



President’s Message — Page 2

Action Report — Page 3

Program Planning — Page 4

Voter Registration — Page 4

Ag Update on the Way — Page 5

Bay Area League Day — Page 6

Hot Topics Details — Page 6

Membership Updates — Page 7

# President's Message

Our usual lovely spring weather is arriving in the Bay Area, and LWVO is springing into action (forgive the pun!) with plans and programs focused on our three core areas of study, advocacy, and voter education.

We are participating in the national League's study to update the position on Agriculture, which is more than two decades old. It clearly needed to be revised so League can speak to vital current issues such as government financing and regulation of new agricultural technologies. Check the Consensus Meetings schedule on page 5, do the background reading, and join other members as we debate and decide on a new position.

LWVO's Action Committee continues to follow the development of a ballot measure this fall to replace Measure Y. After our successful Hot Topics discussion in December on the violence prevention programs funded through Measure Y, we decided to follow up with a Hot Topics meeting March 26 on the police



Katherine Gavzy

and fire components (see page 6). It is sure to generate lively exchanges, supported by the sharing of pertinent information by our invited resource people. These Hot Topics gatherings have helped LWVO broaden our reach and attract the interest of many who do not normally attend League programs. The January meeting on the Domain Awareness Center generated much talk on Twitter.

Also this spring, voter education and service volunteers will be in Oakland high school government classes registering and pre-registering eligible students so they can vote in November, and helping them understand the value of their vote. See pages 4 and 5 for more information and do consider getting involved – I have done it for several years and found it to be a totally enjoyable and fulfilling way to spend a few hours.

Finally, I am pleased to announce some very good news. LWVO's membership, which like that of most local Leagues has been stalled or declining

## League of Women Voters of Oakland 2013-14 Board of Directors

Katherine Gavzy  
President  
(510) 508-9062  
president@lwvoakland.org

Mary Bergan  
Action  
(510) 532-1856  
action@lwvoakland.org

Rosalee Schubert  
Administration  
(510) 834-3401  
admin@lwvoakland.org

Annamarie Hallin  
Secretary  
(510) 531-9569  
secretary@lwvoakland.org

Alec MacDonald  
Voter Editor (Off-Board)  
(773) 505-0717  
voter@lwvoakland.org

Leslie Smith  
Communications  
(415) 218-0590  
communications@lwvoakland.org

Emily Wilson  
Treasurer  
(510) 390-0959  
treasurer@lwvoakland.org

Judy Merrill  
Voter Service  
(510) 654-9600  
voterservice@lwvoakland.org

Bev Solo  
Webmaster  
(510) 891-8027  
bevsolo@jong.com

Louise Anderson  
At Large  
(510) 482-1188  
atlarge2@lwvoakland.org

Louise Rothman-Riemer  
Membership  
(510) 385-1371  
membership@lwvoakland.org

Sandy Venning  
Voter Registration  
(510) 530-5799  
registration@lwvoakland.org

Judi Bank  
InterLeague Rep  
(510) 531-5449  
interleague@lwvoakland.org

Yolanda Schonbrun  
Programs  
(510) 316-5052  
program@lwvoakland.org

Dawna Williams  
At Large  
(510) 921-9153  
atlarge1@lwvoakland.org

in recent years, actually grew in 2013! I'm sure some of this growth results from members spreading the word about LWVO programs and bringing their friends and neighbors to events. Thanks to all of you, we now count 313 members, which makes us one of the largest Leagues in the state.

- Katherine Gavzy

## Stop Dark Money in Politics

LWVUS is asking League members to protect the League's voter service work and stop dark money from polluting elections. Find out what you can do to help at [www.lwv.org/blog/take-action-stop-dark-money-and-protect-league](http://www.lwv.org/blog/take-action-stop-dark-money-and-protect-league).

# Action Committee Report

A few weeks ago LWVO members and those contacted by other Oakland Votes groups were asked to take a decidedly unscientific survey on selected redistricting issues. Results seem to indicate that the integrity of an independent commission and of the process by which its members are chosen remain key to establishing a commission in which residents will have confidence. These and other key provisions for a proposed charter amendment will be more fully discussed in a community meeting the evening of Wednesday, March 12. Put the date on your calendar and watch your e-mail for details.

Marion Taylor, Deborah Scheffler, Helen Hutchison, and Louise Anderson comprise a subcommittee of Action working on Measure Y and a successor proposal. They met with a group that is working together and with City Hall folks on a proposal. We are particularly interested in more clearly defining the role of an oversight committee and ensuring full transparency of actions taken to implement a ballot measure.

We are looking at waterfront development that does not comport with the city's Estuary Policy Plan. How appropriate is residential development between the railroad tracks and the estuary? How many waivers and permit extensions should be allowed?

Update on the Domain Awareness Center (DAC)

On the City Council agenda February 18 was a renewed request from city staff to approve a contractor for Phase 2 of the DAC project. Objections

had been raised because the contractor had at one time been involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons, which would make it ineligible under Oakland's "no nuclear" ordinance. However, most of the dozens of speakers voiced their opposition to the DAC altogether or its expansion beyond the Port of Oakland. Questions have been raised for some time about new and broader surveillance techniques, and their effects on privacy. What data would be collected, how long would it be kept, who would have access, and how could and would it be used?

Councilmembers also raised questions about costs, including who – the city, the port, or both – would be responsible for litigation costs in the likely event of a suit regarding the choice of contractor or other issues. Consensus developed around "stepping back" to limit the DAC to the security needs of the port. The item was tabled until March 4 or longer, and staff was directed to come back with answers to the Council's questions and a clear explanation of what the city's options are now.

- Mary Bergan



BRE# 00875454



## Terry Kulka

~~7~~ 8 LWV members have entrusted me with the sale of their homes – let's make yours ~~7~~ 8 #9

**(510) 682-5917**

[terrykulka@att.net](mailto:terrykulka@att.net)  
[www.TerryKulka.com](http://www.TerryKulka.com)

# Program Planning Held on January 25

On Saturday, January 25, LWVO held its annual Program Planning process at the Cesar Chavez Library in Fruitvale, where members enjoyed a lively discussion on important issues affecting our country, and on how to improve our democratic process.

This year the LWVO focused on national and local positions, in preparation for June's biannual national convention in Texas. Members present at the meeting voted in favor of two national recommendations: (1) to support the proposal circulated by LWV Ohio for a new national study on Alternatives to Partisan Primaries, exploring state, county, and local primary election provisions to determine which have the best chance of increasing voter participation and providing for competitive general elections; and (2) to propose a review/update of the International Trade position to focus on the process and content of trade barriers.

On the local level, the highlight of the process took place after we agreed to maintain as is LWVO and LWV Bay Area positions and determined the issues for education and advocacy. The long-awaited Local Education Position, last updated in 1980, was approved for an update by the general membership at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Following a very lively and agreeable conversation on how to improve the



2014 Program Planning (above) and Education Committee members (below)

position and allow it to give the local League the power to take action in the education of the K-12 students in Oakland, the participating group came to consensus on proposed changes. These will be presented to the members at the June 6 Annual Meeting.

As chair of the Education Committee, I would like to publicly thank the committee for their hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication to the improvement of the K-12 education for all children in the city of Oakland.

- Yolanda Schonbrun

## Lend a Hand with Voter Registration

LWVO needs your help in our voter registration drives this spring and into the fall. Although it's not a presidential election year, there will be a lot of races and issues decided at the ballot box in June and November, and we want to have as many people voting as we can.

We have three major projects:

- 1) Making registration forms available in public places
- 2) Staffing voter registration tables at various public events
- 3) Reaching out to high school seniors

Pete Bank coordinates keeping a supply of registration forms at public places like libraries. Contact him if you would like to help check supplies and distribute registration forms at a few sites periodically throughout the year. Contact him to see if there is a need for helpers in your area.

The public events are typically on evenings or weekends and include offering registration information and forms to the public at community events. Usually two or more League members do this together, depending on the size of the event.

*(continued next page)*

# Agriculture Update Starting Soon

You won't want to miss out on the Consensus process regarding LWV's national position on agriculture. We will be looking at: (1) economic health of the agriculture sector; (2) animal management, including feeding operations; (3) research and development (i.e., long-term effects of genetic engineering or nanotech food); (4) food labeling of GMOs and; (5) food safety, including pesticide/herbicide use.

Among the topics we will be thinking about are soil management, water management, seed banking, and sustainable agriculture. Should agriculture in the U.S. be regulated less, more, or just differently?

## Consensus Meetings

Join the Leagues of Piedmont and of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville in an IntraLeague Consensus event on the LWVUS Agriculture position. The 11 questions are divided into two parts: A & B, both of which each member should attend. Each part will be repeated; participants may choose when to attend:

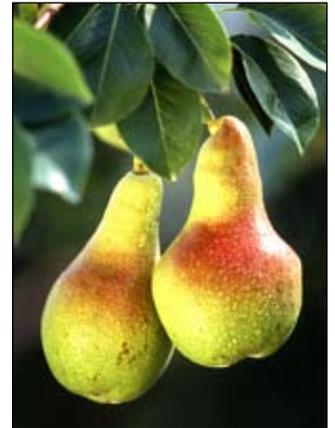
Saturday, March 29: All-day program (Parts A & B) Cesar Chavez Library, 3301 E. 12th Street, 2nd floor, Oakland. Parking by Fruitvale BART, close to library entrance. Part A runs from 9 to 11:45 a.m.,

and after a brown bag lunch, Part B will run from 12:15 to 2:45 p.m.

Tuesday April 1: Part-day program (Part A only) LWV of Berkeley office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley; 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 3: Part-day program (Part B only)

LWV of Berkeley office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley; 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Agriculture is a fascinating topic the more you delve into it. Start reading background materials for the Consensus process now at LWVUS's website ([lww.org](http://lww.org)). Sign in with your password first, then access the materials at the **AGRICULTURE UPDATE**: [www.lww.org/member-resources/agriculture-update](http://www.lww.org/member-resources/agriculture-update). Be sure to scroll through the three webpages of materials broken down by topic. (Skip over the Leader's Guide, the Consensus Form, and other procedural topics.)

- Trisha Gorman

*(from previous page)*

Visits to high school classrooms are, of course, during the school day and usually include an interactive exercise about the importance of voting and helping students fill out the registration forms. We like to have three or four members attend each class as we have a lot to cover in a short amount of time.

We welcome your participation in any of these projects. Those of you who are occupied during the work week may find an occasional evening or weekend morning or afternoon spent registering voters a satisfying way to contribute to

the work of the League. Those who have some free time during the school day might enjoy a few classroom visits; they are stimulating and fun, as well as worthwhile.

Please contact Sandy Venning ([sandy@sandyv.net](mailto:sandy@sandyv.net)) if you would like to be a part of this important project. We especially need people who are available during the school day to visit classrooms. Training for voter registration will be provided at your convenience. (Registering voters is not hard, but even if you've done this before some review is useful).

- Sandy Venning

# LWV Bay Area Holds 2014 League Day

Bringing together League members from across the region on February 1, Bay Area League Day focused on the theme “A New Vision for Bay Area Open Space.” In a day packed with interesting speakers, attendees were introduced to new ways of looking at environmental issues that are larger than those of any individual city or county.

The keynote address was delivered by Wendy Pulling, director of conservation programs at The Nature Conservancy. She presented the idea that the benefits of open space can be quantified as “natural capital.” When perceived through this lens, the economic benefits of open space can motivate support for it. Pulling provided a number of examples of how quantifying the benefits of a proposed environmental practice led to successful action. One example was from New York City, where a million acres of watershed land was protected when it was shown that maintaining and improving the watershed would cost less than building a costly filtration system near the city. Instead, at much less cost, a fund was set up to pay farmers and foresters upstream to use best practices to protect the watershed. Another example was from Ventura County, where the Nature Conservancy worked to protect the Santa Clara River and flood plain from encroaching development. Not only would protecting the flood plain preserve an area of huge biodiversity, it would protect local cities like Oxnard and Glendale from floods and would avoid



Wendy Pulling

the cost of levies and other flood control measures.

For those interested in a more in-depth analysis of the concept of “natural capital,” Pulling recommended “The New Economy of Nature: The Quest to Make Conservation Profitable,” a book by Stanford professor Gretchen Daily with journalist Katherine Ellison.

The rest of the day was filled by three panels on related themes. The first highlighted success in the Bay Area in protecting open space. The speakers acknowledged that Bay

Area citizens value the natural beauty of the area and work together to protect and enhance it. Planning, policies, and funding are all needed to protect green space as our population grows, and many partners may need to work together to get things done. The second panel spoke about the Economic Benefits of Open Space, and spoke of how to evaluate the benefits of nature and natural capital. The third panel looked at future challenges, and warned of the effects of climate change, including the dangers of sea level rise, droughts, and increased wildfires. The panel recommended actions that echoed themes from previous speakers: invest in projects with multiple benefits (for example, protect flood plains), and develop market mechanisms for valued ecosystem services.

– Sandy Venning; photo by Bob MacDonald  
*Visit [www.lwvbayarea.org/documents.html](http://www.lwvbayarea.org/documents.html) to view video of Bay Area League Day.*

## Hot Topics: Measure Y, Part II – Police and Fire Services

In early December we discussed the violence prevention strategies and programs funded by Measure Y. This month we’ll take a look at how funds have been used for police and fire services. As residents and City Councilmembers work on an updated Measure Y, what do we want to see changed or strengthened? We will meet on Wednesday, March 26 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce boardroom at 475 14th Street.

M  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R  
S  
H  
I  
P  
U  
P  
D  
A  
T  
E  
S

Welcome New Members:

Dagma Abbott  
Sister Rosemary Delaney  
Next Step Learning Center

Dianne Macleod

Carrie McKiernan

Cynthia O'Malley

Peggy Presley  
Next Step Learning Center

Debra Snow

Barbara Stauss

Welcome Back:

Greg Powell

Join  
our  
social  
network!



[twitter.com/LWV\\_Oakland](https://twitter.com/LWV_Oakland)



[facebook.com/lwvoak](https://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](mailto: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)
- Student membership (\$25)
- Susan B. Anthony Membership (\$100)
- Carrie Chapman Catt Membership (\$500)
- Each additional member at an address (\$32.50)
- Limited Income (\$10 minimum)
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership (\$250)
- 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.



The League of Women Voters of Oakland  
 1305 Franklin Street, Suite 311  
 Oakland, CA 94612-3222



(510) 834-7640  
 www.lwvoakland.org  
 info@lwvoakland.org

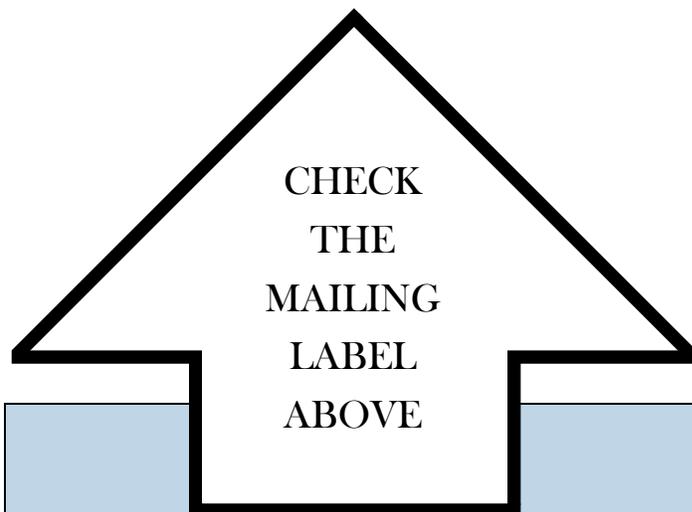
Return Service Requested

Postmaster: Dated Material



**CALENDAR**

Monday, March 10  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, March 19  10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Luncheon Invitation Mailing	Swan's Co-Housing 930 Clay Street Oakland, CA 94612
Wednesday, March 26  6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Hot Topic: Measure Y Part II	Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce 475 14th Street 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.  
 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](http://www.lwvoakland.org/joinlwvo.html) to pay your dues using a credit card.