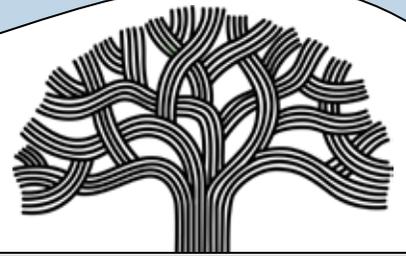


VOTER



Have Lunch with the League

Reservations are now being accepted for LWVO's 24th Annual All-City Luncheon on Wednesday, May 13. Come have lunch with the League.

Hear and see renowned oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle's presentation about caring for our oceans.

Cheer for this year's Making Democracy Work Award winners Waterfront Action Executive Director Sandra Threlfall, and the Oakland Museum Women's Board – those intrepid women who bring you the Annual White Elephant sale that has raised millions of dollars for wonderful exhibits at the Oakland Museum of California.

Gather at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center at 1547 Lakeside Drive between 11:15 and 11:45 to register, buy a glass of wine, have your photo taken, and browse a selection of books about the health of the world's oceans. Lunch will be served promptly at noon. The program will end at 1:30.



Dr. Sylvia Earle

Mail your Luncheon Invitation Response Card with your check to:

LWV Oakland
436 14th Street, Suite 1213
Oakland, CA 94612

Or, use your credit card to make reservations by visiting www.lwvoakland.org.

Questions? Call the League office (510) 834-7640 or send an e-mail to info@lwvoakland.org.

- *Bonnie Hamlin*

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President's Message

Is it due to climate change? We are experiencing an early spring in the Bay Area, and all you gardeners out there are busy planting, fertilizing, and weeding. Spring is also a busy time for the League: not to overwork the metaphor, but in fact we will be planting and fertilizing (though not weeding!) to ensure healthy vigorous growth in our membership, our leadership, and our role in the wider community. Here are some of the upcoming events you should know about.

The 24th Annual All-City Luncheon takes place Wednesday, May 13 at a beautiful new venue, the Scottish Rite Center on Lakeside Drive. Your invitation should arrive in the mail soon, if it hasn't already. The speaker, "Hero for the Planet" oceanographer and conservationist Dr. Sylvia Earle, will illustrate her talk on exploring and protecting our oceans with amazing visuals.

Every year the luncheon raises funds so we can continue to make democracy work in Oakland. It brings together leaders from the city's diverse



Katherine Gavzy

political, business, government, and non-profit communities, and highlights the unique role of the League. New features and activities this year will make it a different and fun event – come to the Luncheon and find out!

Then on May 15 to 17, the State League Convention takes place in San Diego. All local Leagues in California gather at Convention to debate and vote

on the policies and positions that will determine the League's actions in the state for the next two years. My favorite parts of Convention are the informative workshops and the opportunities to meet and learn from members of other Leagues. As the largest and most active League in the state, LWVO hopes to star at Convention: we have applied to receive awards for our innovative Voter Service projects and for our effective Advocacy work. Delegate slots and budget to cover expenses are both limited, so we can't promise a place, but we encourage members who are considering getting more involved to attend Convention: check out the State website

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(www.lwvc.wordpress.com) and then contact me (president@lwvoakland.org) if you want to sign up.

In May we will be cultivating our role in the city and in the State League. In June we turn to our members and invite everyone to come to Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 3 at 6 p.m. at an exciting new location. Look for upcoming announcements. This will be your chance to meet current and new LWVO leaders, vote on programs and budget, hear from outstanding speakers on relevant and timely topics, give us your “Advice to the Board” on what we should be doing differently, and enjoy a great evening with your fellow Leaguers. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

- Katherine Gavzy

Hot Topic: Navigating the Mayor’s Budget Proposal

What goals does the budget proposal reflect? Are there devils in the details? Where can we get reliable analyses of the budget? Join us and budget experts as we go from the general (common good) to the specific (2015-17 proposed Oakland city budget) on Wednesday, April 22, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 436 14th Street in the second floor conference room.

Thanks Are in Order

Deep gratitude to the following people who helped us prepare for mailing just under 2,000 invitations to the All-City Luncheon on March 25 in record time: Carole Agnello, Louise Anderson, Nancy Aufer, Judi Bank, Meg Bowerman, Linda Brown, Karen Engel, Lorraine Force, Mary Gormly, Annmarie Hallin, Buffy Hasley, Helen Haug, Karen Ivy, Sari Kulberg, Terry Kulka, Judy

Merrill, Carmen Murray, Barbara Newcombe, Treva Reid, Joyce Roy, Rosalee Schubert, Mary Strauss, Ruth Vaughn, Sue Veit, Sandy Venning, Mary Weinstein. Extra thanks to Judi, Lorraine, and Rosalee for their help in organizing the event, and to Judi for getting all those orderly trays to the post office.

- Bonnie Hamlin

Moving Forward with Women’s History

On March 21, P.O.W.E.R. (Progressive Oakland Women for Empowerment and Reform) held “Women Making History: Civil Liberties/Civil Rights in Action – How Do We Move Forward?” at Mills College. Sponsored by LWVO and others, the event featured (from left) Oakland Fire Chief Teresa DeLoach Reed, affordable housing specialist Lynette Jung Lee, pioneering Bay Area journalist Jerri Lange, and US Park Service Ranger Betty Soskin.

- photos courtesy
Louise Rothman-Riemer



California Civic Learning Partnership

Last year at our All-City Luncheon, Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, spoke about the importance of engaging students in civic learning and her hopes for improving the civic engagement of young people with the establishment of a new organization, the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning. In March, LWVO members Louise Anderson and Sandy Venning attended a California Civic Learning Partnership/Alameda County Kick-Off breakfast to learn about this new initiative.

One of the most impressive aspects of the meeting was the diversity of the attendees. Many sectors of the Alameda County community were on hand and on board to help this initiative take hold. There were students, teachers, administrators, school board members; there were lawyers, civil servants, and elected officials. All agreed on the goal and a number of speakers pointed the way to success.

Among the speakers was Carol Corrigan, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California and former Alameda County District Attorney. She pointed out

that ignorance and apathy are the main dangers to democracy. To defeat ignorance, students must learn more about how democracy works from an early age, and to defeat apathy they must have hands-on experiences that make them feel their participation in the democratic process is important. Alameda County Superintendent of Schools Karen Monroe spoke of various ways that have been successful in engaging youth including mock trials and internships.

Young Whan Choi, History and Civic Engagement Coordinator for the Oakland Unified School District, brought together perhaps the most inspiring speakers of the morning, a panel of high school students who described the hands-on civic engagement projects they had been involved with and how their experiences had indeed made them feel more powerful. Whan Choi commented that civic engagement takes a lot of work, but the results are that students come to feel empowered instead of passive and apathetic.

How can League members be involved in this project? Visit www.powerofdemocracy.org, where you will find the Task Force Report Recommendations for Revitalizing K-12 Civic Education in California, as well as other information about the organization and on next steps. If you have ideas or would like to be involved in the discussion, please send a message to the League office (info@lwvoakland.org) or call (510) 834-7640.

- Sandy Venning and Louise Anderson

March Hot Topics

League members and other interested Oaklanders discussed the city budget process with District 2 Councilmember Abel Guillen.

- photo by Louise Anderson



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National League Focuses on Money in Politics

At the last national League convention, local League delegates from around the country agreed that we need to review and consider updating our current position on Money in Politics to be sure it is clear and robust enough to support well-conceived and effective action on this issue, which we all see as crucial for the health of our democracy. A national committee was formed. Resource materials are now posted on the national League website; look for the link on our own homepage, www.lwvoakland.org, and click on “LWV Studies” on the left sidebar, right under “Action/Advocacy.” Send us an e-mail at info@lwvoakland.org if you want to know more and if you want to participate. The League wants to be ready for the 2016 elections.

Now is the time for us to get involved. Many of you checked Money in Politics on the interest survey when you joined or renewed. We need to form a LWVO committee to coordinate educational programs in Oakland beginning now, and to organize a consensus meeting of the members next fall and winter. Participating in a national study is an exciting and empowering experience; help us make Oakland’s voice heard at the national League.

The LWVUS Money in Politics Committee is especially aiming to clarify the relationship between campaign finance and free speech. The campaign finance position will be updated through a study

and consensus process to consider: (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position.

What Our League Can Do Now:

- Form a study committee to utilize materials coming from the national study committee and to conduct the study locally.
- Use the suggested reading list for League book reviews and book groups.
- Gather information at the local and state level about state and local laws governing money in politics.
- Identify local resources and experts to work with the League in developing community education forums.

A related effort is analyzing the constitutional amendment process, which many are urging as the answer to the Supreme Court’s “Citizens United” decision. Resource materials and readings on this topic are also available on the LWVUS website. Look for the link on our www.lwvoakland.org homepage and contact info@lwvoakland.org to learn more.

- Katherine Gavzy

Have you been reading the *Bay Area Monitor*?

Published by the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund, the *Bay Area Monitor* provides coverage of transportation, air quality, water quality, open space, and land use issues in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The publication is available both online and in print at no cost to interested readers. The April/May edition was just published, and includes the following articles:

Bay Area Monitor History, Part IV

Resurgent Economy Likely to Lift Priority Development Areas

The Faucet as Power Switch: Water’s Hidden Energy Consumption

Measuring Methane and Estimating Emissions to Protect the Climate

Visit www.bayareamonitor.org to learn more, and to subscribe.

What's Happening at the PEC?

In the November 2014 election, the Oakland Public Ethics Commission (PEC) got a big boost when Measure CC was passed by a large majority of voters, resulting in a Charter Amendment to expand its reach. In December the Oakland City Council unanimously passed the Government Ethics Act to ensure education about and enforcement of government ethics rules. The PEC was given greater staffing (six rather than two employees), expanded responsibilities, and a larger role in enforcing laws and punishing infractions.

Whitney Barazoto, executive director of the PEC, says that the priorities of the Commission are about one-third engaging and educating Commission clients (elected officials, candidates for City office, lobbyists, all City employees, people doing business with the City, etc) so that they know the rules and realize that following the rules is expected and required; one-third enforcement of the rules; and one-third improving the disclosure of ethics information to the public. As Barazoto said, "To do our job well, and to create an abundant ethical culture in and around City Hall, the Commission must be, and be perceived to be, both a guide-dog and a watchdog."

Although the laws to expand the responsibilities of the Commission were passed at the end of 2014, the new staffing included in the laws does not take effect until July 2015, and the city budget has not yet been approved, so there is still some uncertainty that sufficient funding will be available. Meanwhile, the PEC commissioners and staff are forging ahead on several fronts. They are prioritizing their areas of responsibility and determining how their expected new staff will be deployed, they are continuing with the priority of working through the backlog of complaints resulting from underfunding in



past years and new complaints related to the 2014 election season, and they are continuing to improve the disclosure of ethics information to the public. To accomplish the latter task they are continuing to partner with other organizations, including other city departments and outside groups like Open Oakland to leverage technology for the benefit of both those covered by ethics laws and the general public.

Jenna Whitman, Chair of the Commission, says that the Commission takes their cue from the voters, who clearly support stronger enforcement of existing laws. These laws cover not just elections, but such issues as nepotism, sharing confidential information, and revolving door policies. Until now, the Commission has not had the staffing to delve into these other areas. Now, they hope they will. Records Management, complying with open records laws, is another area of continuing interest, and one with which new technology can be especially useful. Unfortunately technology costs money, but again, the PEC hopes that a lot can be accomplished by partnering with other groups.

When asked what most excited her about the Commission's new role, Barazoto said, "This new comprehensive ethics law, combined with the new structure and independence in the Charter amendment, sets us up to do the very work for which we were originally created. *That is exciting!*"

- Sandy Venning, photos courtesy Whitney Barazoto

Luncheon Volunteers Wanted

Are you planning to buy a ticket to the Luncheon on May 13?

If so, would you like to volunteer to help? We're looking for people to help by placing flowers and handouts on the tables before the guests arrive; registering guests; or helping people find their table.

Call or email the League office: (510) 834-7640 or info@lwvoakland.org.

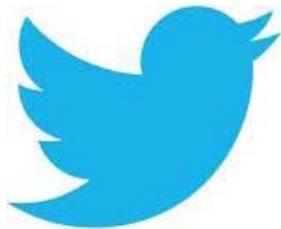
Membership News

Welcome New Members:

June Grant
Rosa C. Lynley
Diane Earl McCan
Tikisha Ong

Welcome Back Returning Member:

L. Karen Monroe



Join our social network!

twitter.com/LWV_Oakland

facebook.com/lwvoak



SHARE THIS WITH FRIENDS – 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."

- | | |
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| <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 436 14th Street, Suite 1213, Oakland CA 94612.

Dues are not tax deductible.



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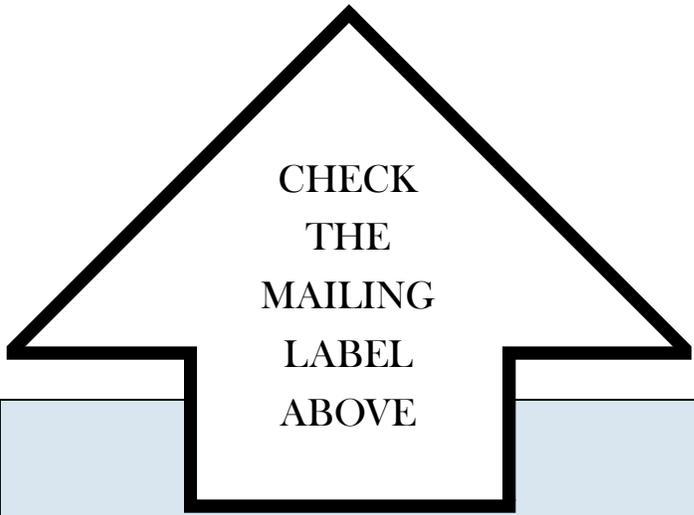
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CALENDAR
 (Visit lwvoakland.org for more event listings)

Monday, April 13 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	LWVO Board Meeting	Central Building 2nd Floor ConferenceRoom 436 14th Street
Wednesday, April 22 6 to 7:30 p.m.	Hot Topics: Mayor's Budget Proposal	Central Building 2nd Floor ConferenceRoom 436 14th Street
Monday, May 11 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	LWVO Board Meeting	Central Building 2nd Floor ConferenceRoom 436 14th Street
Wednesday, May 13 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	All-City Luncheon	Scottish Rite Center 1547 Lakeside Drive



Is there a date at the top of it?
 If there's no date at the top of it, you're not a member. Please join; see how at www.lwvoakland.org.
 If there is a date, it shows when your membership expires. Renew by using the renewal form and Interest Survey coming in the May Voter.