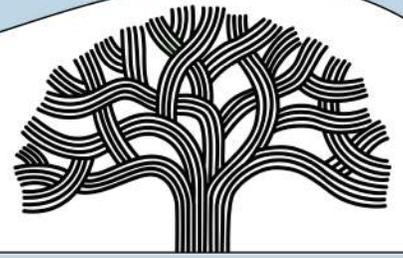


# VOTER



Making Democracy Work

January 2016

Thinking about traveling to Cuba? Last November Mony Flores-Bauer and I spent a week in this complex and challenging country as part of a 21-member delegation sponsored by Sisters Across the Straits <http://thefloridavoter.org/trips-events-listing/travel-to-cuba/>, a State Department-licensed program of the Florida League of Women Voters. The tour aims to build trust and improve relations among people. Irrepressible tour leader and Cuban native Annie Betancourt has been introducing League delegates from across the United States to Cuba, and vice versa, since 2011. We were her 23d people-to-people group!



*Deborah Shefler, Mony Flores-Bauer (driving), Mary Kae Nelson and Yvonne Smith (from Wisconsin)*

In addition to touring in and around beautiful Havana (itineraries vary from trip to trip) and eating and drinking well at privately owned, often home-based paladars (restaurants), we met with articulate, opinionated women working in academia, with the United Nations, and with the Women's Federation of Cuba. A woman now running her own farm chatted with us about entrepreneurial opportunities. The CBS Cuba news producer provided political insights during our final dinner. I will also put in a plug for our entertaining, forthcoming and informative 32 year old Cuban government tour guide, a talented young man who initially thought Sisters Across the Straits would be a contingent of nuns.

This trip was highly rewarding and lots of fun. Cuba, with its long and turbulent relationship to the United States, is in many ways set apart from all other countries. Several of us concluded that this was merely our first trip to a fascinating part of the world, where change is happening every day.

-Deborah Shefler

## Contents



President's Message	p. 2	Higher Education	p. 5
Member News	p. 3	Position & Policy Review	p. 7
League About Town	p. 4	Calendar	p. 8

# President's Message



David Carter is a favorite pop-up artist of mine, and I think his New Year's card is a delightful introduction to what is going to be an exciting and "out of the box" year. 2016 is here folks and it is election time, consensus time, convention time and time for Oakland to be voting informed.

The card explodes off the paper and points in every direction. That is what the League will look like in the coming year. We will be reaching out to all parts of Oakland so the whole city becomes engaged and informed.

On Jan. 9th we start things off with a consensus session on Money in Politics at the Central Building 436 14th St in downtown Oakland from 9 AM to 1 PM. If you can't make that time join the one in Berkeley on the 19th. (See our League Calendar)

January 23rd we will have our annual meeting on policy and position planning. This year our focus will be on National as we prepare for the League's convention in Washington DC June 16-19th. We will meet at the Rockridge Library, at the corner of College and Manila, just a short walk from the Rockridge Bart Station, and AC Transit's 51 bus stops almost in front of the Library. If you are interested please come, it will be an informative view of the League's issues. The more you understand of the League's positions, the more clearly you can articulate them.

2016 being an election year will bring with it a lot of opportunity for involvement. We will need you to help out with Pro's and Con's Presentations and Candidate Forums. We will also be setting up times at local libraries for League members to answer questions about voting and how to register to

vote. You will learn more about this in our next newsletter.

If Oakland is going to vote informed we will need to do a lot of educating, supporting and encouraging. We especially will need to reach out to areas of Oakland with low voter turnout. It takes all of us to voice our opinion by our vote for the result to be truly a majority community response.

One of the ways that voting becomes relevant is when people see the impact a vote can make in their own lives and in their community. Therefore League members will need to be ready to discuss the League's position on matters that we have established policy on. The League has taken positions on many aspects of community impact including housing, transportation, government, the death penalty and gun control. You will be able to read more about these positions in upcoming Voter articles and on our website.

So like David Carter's New Year's Card let the League explode on to the voting scene in Oakland so that we are a voting city and we vote informed!

-Louise RR, President-LWVO



*David Carter's New Years Card*

# Reminders

## **Come To A Consensus Meeting And Help Make National League Policy**

In this critical election year, the League is tackling Money in Politics. Come to a consensus meeting, enjoy lively discussion with fellow Leaguers, and make your voice heard as we help LWVUS establish a position for advocacy. We have two opportunities :

**Saturday January 9th, 9 AM to 1 PM**, in Room 710 at 436 14th Street, downtown Oakland (Oakland City Center BART station).

**Tuesday January 19th, 12 noon to 4 PM**, we will cover the same material if you could not make it on January 9th. South Berkeley Library, 1901 Russell Street, Berkeley

Find the consensus questions and more information on the Money in Politics page of our website [www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org) <http://lwvoakland.org/moneyinpol.html>

~~~

## **The Impact of Impact Fees on Oakland Housing Development**

**Wednesday, January 27, 6 – 8 p.m.** at 436 14th Street 7th floor Conference Room

As Oakland works to create more affordable housing, impact fees have become an important part of the discussion. Join us on the 27th to understand impact fees and how they should become part of the city's housing policies. All are invited.

~~~

## **All-City Luncheon Reminders**

**April 28, 2016**

**Nominate someone for a Making Democracy Award;** Friday, January 22, 2016 deadline. Use the form found in the middle of December's Voter or go online to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MakingDemocracyWorkAwardNomination>

**Sponsor a table at the Luncheon or recommend someone who might do this.** See the form found in the middle of December's Voter or go online to <http://www.lwvoakland.org/lunchpledgemain2016.html>

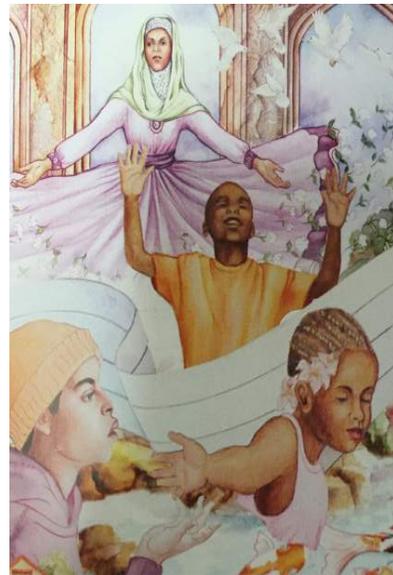
# League About Town

## LWVO Helps Maintain Antonio Ramos Memorial

Oaklanders were shocked and dismayed when artist Antonio Ramos was killed while working on a mural with the Attitudinal Healing Connection (AHC). AHC director Aeshah Clotey, a League member, invited LWVO to participate with other local groups to maintain the memorial erected in his honor at the mural.

LWVO volunteers Jane Klein, Phyllis White-Ayunruoh, Louise Anderson, Judy Merrill, Meg Bowerman, Ernestine Nettles and Katherine Gavzy kept the candles lit, replaced flowers and greenery, and swept around the memorial to keep the site clean and orderly. We were honored to show our commitment to this message of strength and community solidarity in the face of senseless violence. A suspect has been arrested, but the sorrow felt by the family and our city remains.

-Katherine Gavzy



## Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Check the date on your Voter's mailing label; it is the date your membership expires. No date? You're not a member; please JOIN!

\$\_\_\_\_\_ \$70 Individual Membership. New \_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Additional Member at the same address. New \_\_\_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Student Membership. New \_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_  
Or \$\_\_\_ Sliding Scale \$10 - \$70 New \_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_

(LWVO is a 501(c)4 organization. Dues and donations to LWVO are not tax-deductible)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your check to: LWVO, 436 14th St., Ste .1213, Oakland CA 94612-2723

OR go to our Website to pay by credit card [www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org)

# Higher Education Study

On Nov. 19th the Oakland League held a Program on “Accessibility to Higher Education” at Laney College in Oakland. The evening’s meeting provided attendees with information to better understand the issues and reasoning behind the LWVCA Study on Higher Education. Hans Johnson, Senior Fellow, Public Policy Institute of CA and Chris Hoene, Executive director of the California Budget Center spoke about the crisis in higher education in California and what it will mean for the state’s economy and for our ability to have an educated citizenry.

The Study on Higher Ed poses the following questions for consideration: **What is the purpose of California’s system of public higher education? Is it to supply an educated, competitive workforce for the state? Is it to offer the benefits of postsecondary school education to everyone capable of learning? Is it to ensure that the state will have a sufficiently large segment of well-educated citizens? Is it to develop future leaders? Is the purpose to increase opportunities for economic mobility otherwise lacking for first-generation and/or minority youngsters? Is it to continue emphasis on access and excellence as core values?**

State support for the UC and CSU education system has dramatically declined. In 1980 – 81 the state general fund support of a UC full time equivalent student was \$25,000; in 2013-14 that amount had dropped to less than \$15,000 per full time equivalent student. And for CSU the amount dipped from over \$10,000 in 1980-81 to barely over \$5,000 in 2013-14. This dramatic drop in state support has meant increased cost to the individual student, which has put higher education out of bounds for many people.

The fact that Higher Education is becoming so difficult for large segments of our state’s population to achieve means that we are likely to find our state experiencing an educational drought when filling jobs that will absolutely require a college degree to qualify for employment. Currently the majorities of California’s K-12 students are poor or near poor. Therefore grant and scholarship aid is crucial to their ability to complete a college education.

Without a college education individuals are far more likely to be unemployed. In 2014 unemployment rates for those with only a high school diploma were at 11.3%, while those with a bachelor’s degree or more had an unemployment rate of 4.5%. Without greater access to higher education we will be creating a society that cannot fill the jobs that will be available. This also means that industry will be more likely to leave the state because they can not find sufficient qualified individuals within the state. It is also true that the more education one has, the greater the wage premium is compared to those with only a high school education. Those who have a Bachelor’s degree command an income that is 68% greater than that of someone with only a high school diploma. For those with a Master’s degree or above the percentage of wage premium is 116%, according to Hans Johnson’s information presented at the League Program.

This situation will become a major crisis if California does not find more successful ways to have an educated citizenry. If you follow the League’s Study on Access to Higher Education you will not only learn a lot, but at the consensus meeting in March you will help the League determine its position so that it can act and be a more effective advocate on a very important issue to our state and its citizens.

# Bay Area League Day

Reinventing Bay Area Transportation for the 21st Century

Saturday, February 6, 2016 9:30 AM-2:30 PM

Registration and Refreshments 9:00 – 9:30 AM

Maple Hall, 13837 San Pablo Ave

Located at Alvarado Square inside the City Hall Complex

13831 San Pablo Avenue

San Pablo, CA 94806

**Keynote Address** – Senator Jim Beall,  
Chair California Senate Transportation Committee

## REGISTRATION:

Send check payable to LWVBA by Friday, January 29th, to LWVBA Attn: BALD

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL LEAGUE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION will be available online using PayPal after Dec. 1, 2015. The cost is \$35 pre-paid (\$20 without lunch) and \$40 (\$25 without lunch) at the door. The deadline for prepaid registration will be Friday, January 29, 2016. Make check payable to LWVBA, attn.: BALD. Mail check to LWVBA, 436 14th St, suite 1213, Oakland, CA 94612. For more information call Alec MacDonald (510) 839-1608 or [www.lwvbaya](http://www.lwvbaya)

## League of Women Voters of Oakland 2015-16 Board of Directors

Louise Rothman-Riemer  
President  
[president@lwvoakland.org](mailto:president@lwvoakland.org)

Eleni Hub  
Webmaster  
[webmaster@lwvoakland.org](mailto:webmaster@lwvoakland.org)

Yolanda Schonbrun  
V.P. Program  
[program@lwvoakland.org](mailto:program@lwvoakland.org)

Louise Anderson  
At Large  
[Atlarge2@lwvoakland.org](mailto:Atlarge2@lwvoakland.org)

Jane Klein  
VP Admin  
[admin@lwvoakland.org](mailto:admin@lwvoakland.org)

Deborah Shefler  
VP Voter Service  
[voterservice@lwvoakland.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvoakland.org)

Judi Bank  
InterLeague Rep  
[interleague@lwvoakland.org](mailto:interleague@lwvoakland.org)

Amy Lyons  
Treasurer  
[treasurer@lwvoakland.org](mailto:treasurer@lwvoakland.org)

Sandy Venning  
Voter Registration  
[registration@lwvoakland.org](mailto:registration@lwvoakland.org)

Mary Bergan  
Action  
[action@lwvoakland.org](mailto:action@lwvoakland.org)

Judy Merrill  
Voter Service  
[voterservice@lwvoakland.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvoakland.org)

Phyllis White-Ayanruoh  
Membership  
[membership@lwvoakland.org](mailto:membership@lwvoakland.org)

Annmarie Hallin  
Secretary  
[secretary@lwvoakland.org](mailto:secretary@lwvoakland.org)

Natasha Middleton  
At Large  
[atlarge4@lwvoakland.org](mailto:atlarge4@lwvoakland.org)

Dawna Williams  
At Large  
[atlarge1@lwvoakland.org](mailto:atlarge1@lwvoakland.org)

# What Is Position & Policy Review?

Saturday, January 23, from 10:30 to 3:30 at the Rockridge Library, 5366 College Avenue, LWVO will conduct its annual review of positions and and policies at the national, bay area, county and at the City of Oakland levels. The Position & Policy Review or Program Planning, as it has been called in the past, is an opportunity for League members to examine the current guiding principles to ensure relevancy, appropriateness and effectiveness for future League actions. Let's make sure we all get involved in making national and local decisions our priorities this year and strive for a better democratic process.

Please plan to join us and enjoy some local coffee & delicacies, grab a lunch from the neighborhood eateries or bring your own.

For background information and proper preparation please visit: <http://www.lwvoakland.org/annrww.html>

## Holiday Party Pictures



*Diane Lewis & Natasha Middleton*



*Bryan Parker & Amy Lyons*



*Louise Rothman-Riemer, Deborah Shefler, & Barbara Parker*

Paid Advertisement



**Terry Kulka**

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

**(510) 682-5917**

BRE# 00875454



**terrykulka@att.net**  
**www.TerryKulka.com**



The League of Women Voters of Oakland  
 436 14th Street, Suite 1213  
 Oakland, CA 94612

Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Oakland, CA  
 Permit No. 2911

(510) 834-7640  
[www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org)  
[info@lwvoakland.org](mailto:info@lwvoakland.org)

Return Service Requested

Postmaster: Dated Material



## CALENDAR

(Visit [lwvoakland.org](http://lwvoakland.org) for more event listings)

Sat, Jan 9, 9am - 1pm	Money In Politics Consensus Mtg	Conference room 710 at 436 14th Street
Mon, Jan 11, 6:30pm - 8:30pm	LWVO Board Mtg	Conference room 710 at 436 14th Street
Tue, Jan 19, 2016 12-4pm	Money In Politics Consensus Meet- ing	Berkeley Public Library 1901 Rus- sell St, Berkeley, CA 94703
Sat, Jan 23, 10:30am - 3pm	Annual LWVO Policy and Positions Review	Rockridge Library Manila Ave & College
Sat, Feb 6, 9:30am - 2:30pm	Bay Area League Day 2016	Maple Hall 13831 San Pablo Ave #4, San Pablo, CA 94806



Check the address label on this newsletter. The date that runs across the top, above your name, is the date when your membership expires. If the date is earlier than October 31, 2015, your membership has expired. We'd hate to lose you!

Please renew at [www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org); click on "Renew Online."  
 If there's no date on your mailing label, you are not a member of LWV Oakland. Please join at [www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org); Click on "Join Online".  
 Questions??? Leave a message at (510) 834-7640 or [info@lwvoakland.org](mailto:info@lwvoakland.org); someone will get back to you promptly.