

You're Invited to a Holiday Party

Come celebrate with the League

Friday, December 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.

At the home of Louise Rothman-Riemer

(Check your directory for the address)



No policy analysis, no politics

Just the pleasure of one another's company

Would you like a free ticket to next spring's All-City Luncheon, or another League-related prize? There will be a drawing at the Holiday Party from the names of all current LWVO members for whom we have an interest survey. Not sure whether you filled out an interest survey when you renewed or joined recently? Send an email to info@lwvoakland.org and we'll let you know.

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President's Message

The end of the year is a good time for reflection and evaluation. This was what we call in "League-speak" an off-year – no major elections to devour our time, attention, and resources. That allows us to focus on developing our League.

Membership has grown moderately, and it is exciting to see new members. Many join because a friend or neighbor is a League member who brought them to an event: they were impressed by what we do and how we do it, and they want to be a part of it. The September program with the School Board president and interim superintendent attracted many new people. I hope all of you reading this will bring someone you know to the next event you attend – consider yourself an ambassador for the League.

We have not grown enough to overcome the loss of members who do not renew. Our Membership Committee is always looking for ways to reach out to members so they feel involved and choose to stay with us. Any ideas you have to help us with this crucial



Katherine Gavzy

task are welcome: send your thoughts to membership@lwvoakland.org.

One exciting new development this year has been the launching of our Communications Committee. LWVO is using a purposeful strategy to keep our name and issues visible throughout Oakland: using social media, regular email blasts, a lively, accessible and always current website, and now the new online

issue of the Voter (in color!). Our Action Committee has been a frequent presence at City Hall, working hard to advance the cause of open, transparent, and accessible government. Hopefully, new attitudes on City Council – along with a newly-energized Public Ethics Committee and the City's commitment to using technology to make data public – are giving Oakland a fresh start, and LWVO is involved in all these activities.

So we have a lot to celebrate at our Holiday Party on December 13. Come join us!

- Katherine Gavzy

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

Action Committee Report

On October 29, the Oakland City Council adopted proposed redistricting map 26, prepared by Councilmember McElhaney in response to public comments and Council discussions. On November 19, the ordinance describing the new lines was voted on, with final approval expected December 5. The final decision was whether to put Maxwell Park wholly into D4 or D6; it will be in District 6.

The League congratulated the Council on having followed a transparent, responsive process. The letter of congratulations is on the LWVO website.

Work continues on a to-be-proposed charter amendment to establish an independent citizens redistricting commission for Oakland. The most difficult issues center on the selection of commission members. What are the optimal criteria to be a commission member? How and by whom will commission members be selected? If you have ideas, do share them by emailing action@lwvoakland.org.

Following the December 4 Hot Topics discussion, the Action Committee will develop recommendations for a new Measure Y. Committee members are also meeting with city and Council staff responsible for Measure Y activities to learn more about the work they have been doing.

It appears that a records management policy keeps getting stalled because “nobody cares enough.” LWVO cares. The policy is long overdue

Next Hot Topic: Measure Y
Wednesday, December 4

Oakland voters approved Measure Y, the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act, in 2004. How has it worked? What programs has it funded? What changes should be made in a new Measure Y? Join us in the boardroom of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce at 475 14th Street on Wednesday, December 4 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to discuss these questions and more.

and a necessary complement to the recently adopted open data policy. We will be at the Public Ethics Commission meeting December 2 to join the discussion on a promised draft policy.

Both the sample ballot and the ballot to be voted were sent together to eligible voters for the Wildfire Prevention District renewal. The League sent email to members reminding them to send in their ballots, and of our support for the WPD. (It appears not everyone got the message; the measure failed by a mere .3 percent.)

In addition to December’s Hot Topic event (details at bottom left), two additional Hot Topic events are in the works for the new year:

Security and Civil Liberties (January 22)

How to Impact City Government (February 26)

Stay tuned for more details on these events.

- Mary Bergan

DONATE TO THE LEAGUE

We rely on dues and donations to support our programs.

Name: _____

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Amount Enclosed: _____

I wish my contribution to remain anonymous.

I wish my contribution to be tax deductible where allowed by law. My check is made out to the LWV Oakland Education Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) organization.

I wish to support the League’s action priorities. My check is made out to the League of Women Voters and is not tax-deductible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please mail to:
LWV Oakland
1305 Franklin Street #311, Oakland, CA 94612

Registration Open for Bay Area League Day

LWV Bay Area hopes you can attend its annual Bay Area League Day forum on Saturday, February 1. The event will be held in Oakland at the MetroCenter Auditorium at 101 Eighth Street (across the street from the Lake Merritt BART Station). Registration and breakfast begin at 9:30 a.m., with the program to follow from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This year's forum is entitled "A New Vision for Bay Area Open Space."

Open space is more than just a beautiful landscape or a place to hike. Within the more than a million acres protected permanently from development in the Bay Area, a new vision of the value of open space is emerging. An ecosystem survey being conducted by the Santa Clara and Sonoma open space districts is developing data on the cost-benefit value of investing

in nature. Connectivity between open lands allows for greater use by the public and wildlife. Some open lands are being used as a baseline to study the effects of climate change. Habitat conservation plans are being developed to enhance the provision of water supply by preserving and enhancing watersheds and improving flood protection.

The cost to attend is \$35 prepaid (\$20 without lunch) and \$40 at the door (\$25 without lunch). Online registration may be completed by visiting www.lwvbayarea.org (under "Calendar"). To register by mail, please write a check payable to "LWV Bay Area" and mail it to 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612. If you have any questions, please call (510) 839-1608.

- Linda Craig, LWV Bay Area

The Bay Area Monitor: A Regional Resource

For nearly 40 years, LWV Bay Area has published the *Bay Area Monitor* to promote awareness about critical yet frequently overlooked issues that affect this region. Focusing primarily on transportation, air quality, water, land use, open space, and various environmental concerns, the *Monitor* showcases replicable strategies for enhancing sustainability, conserving resources, advancing equity, increasing efficiency, and safeguarding public health across the region.

We believe the *Monitor* is a valuable resource, but we still meet League members who have never heard of the publication. We'd like to change that, which is why we're reaching out to you in an effort to raise the publication's online visibility.

Six times a year, LWV Bay Area sends e-mail announcements to online readers of the *Monitor*, alerting them that a new edition has been posted online.

So what we'd like to ask is: Would you like to start receiving these announcements?

If you would, please visit www.bayareamonitor.org and click on the "Subscribe" tab (located top center of the page) and enter your name and e-mail address. Your information will not be used for any other purpose, and you can opt out at any time.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at (510) 839-1608 or editor@bayareamonitor.org. We'd be glad to hear from you.

- Marion Taylor, LWV Bay Area



State League Response to Governor's Vetoes

The recent legislative session included some victories and some frustrations for LWVC and other organizations we are partnering with to make the political process more democratic and transparent. The League supported several bills that passed successfully through the Assembly and the Senate but were vetoed by the Governor. Here are two notable bills and plans for next steps following these disappointing vetoes:

Senate Bill 3 (Yee) – Would have amended the Political Reform Act of 1974 to strengthen disclosure requirements of campaign contributions and expenditures, and move toward effective online reporting, including mandatory training for campaign treasurers. The League strongly supported this bill. The Governor's veto message said it would be too costly and difficult to implement, but he did admit the current system needs upgrading and he will ask the Secretary of State to make recommendations. LWVC is looking into ways we can contribute to the Secretary of State's review process. LWVC Program Director Trudy Schafer said, "At this point, we don't have a version of the treasurer-training provisions that we think will succeed in avoiding a veto, but it is something we would like Leagues to ask their representatives about in their legislative interviews. Another provision that didn't receive much attention was the increase in fines for late filing of disclosure reports by lobbyists and campaigns, with the increase going into the fund that will support the Cal-Access upgrade. We're looking into that one – possibly as an addition to Senate Bill 2 (Lieu and Yee), which we hope will have its final vote on the Assembly floor (and in the Senate for

concurrence in amendments taken in the Assembly) soon after the New Year." Look for Action Alerts from LWVC and LWVO early in 2014.

Senate Bill 654 (Leon) – LWVC joined with the Greenlining Institute, California Calls, MapLight, Rock the Vote, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice in supporting this bill which would have required that the title and summary of ballot measure petitions circulated for signatures be translated into the languages required for each jurisdiction under the Voting Rights Act. The League co-signed the letter urging the Governor's signature which stated

the bill "strikes the right balance between protecting the right of millions of voters to participate ... with the rights of proponents to determine how they want to run their campaigns." The Governor said it would be too costly. Michelle Romero

of the Greenlining Institute said, "We will not be reintroducing this legislation in 2014, but we do hope to do some more research looking at specific counties or other states where we can gain some traction. We continue to be concerned that immigrant citizens are not wholly integrated in our democracy and are excluded from decisions that affect their lives."

- LWV California

LWV California Releases New "Guide to California Government"

The League of Women Voters of California has recently released the 15th edition of its "Guide to California Government," a book designed to engage and inform readers by emphasizing the public's role in California government. For more information, visit www.lwvc.org/G2CG, or call (916) 442-7215.



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
www.TerryKulka.com

Ag Update Continues with Joint Meeting

November's Program, held in conjunction with the LWV of Piedmont, was a big success, with 40 attendees and a very engaged audience. The program, presented by Adam Scow (pictured at center), California director of Food and Water Watch, focused on trends in the consolidation of grocery store food outlets, money in agriculture politics both nationally and locally, and GMOs. The discussion of the Farm Bill, fracking as it relates to water for agriculture, and the Peripheral Canal and Delta gave much food for thought – if you'll excuse the pun – for the ongoing InterLeague LWVUS Agriculture Policy Update committee, headed by LWVP's Betsy King (second from left) and LWVO's Trisha Gorman (third from left). Also pictured are LWVP President Hope Salzer (far left), LWVO Program Chair Yolanda Schonbrun (front right), and Helen Hutchinson (back right), LWVO's own LWV California board member, who also spoke at the meeting about what our state League is doing regarding some of these issues. If you want to participate in the Ag Update Committee as it prepares for the LWVUS Consensus process in 2014, please contact Trisha at bayareatrishag@gmail.com.



photo courtesy of Trisha Gorman

- Trisha Gorman

Annual Luncheon Set for April 29

LWV Oakland's 23rd All-City Luncheon will feature California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, speaking about a subject dear to the hearts of League members: the importance to the health of our democracy of an educated and engaged populace.

Cantil-Sakauye recently helped establish the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning. The task force will bring definition to the skills, knowledge, and dispositions that students need to be informed and involved citizens and community members, and make recommendations for how

Making Democracy Work Award Nominees Sought

Who is making democracy work in Oakland? You? A friend? Your favorite non-profit? Nominate a person or an organization for a Making Democracy Work Award to be presented at the All-City Luncheon.

You can fill out an online nomination form at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/MakingDemocracyWorkAwardNomination

Or, visit www.lwvoakland.org to download a paper nomination form.

Nominations are due to the League office by Sunday, December 15. Questions? Send an email to award@lwvoakland.org or leave a message with the League office at (510) 834-7640.

we can achieve these outcomes for all students in California.

Mark your calendars now for Tuesday, April 29, 2014 (11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) at Scott's Pavilion, Jack London Square.

- Bonnie Hamlin

Join our social network!



twitter.com/LWV_Oakland



facebook.com/lwvoak

Welcome
New Members

Nancy Rowell
Shanthi Gonzales



Happy Holidays from the LWV Oakland Board of Directors!

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: _____

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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
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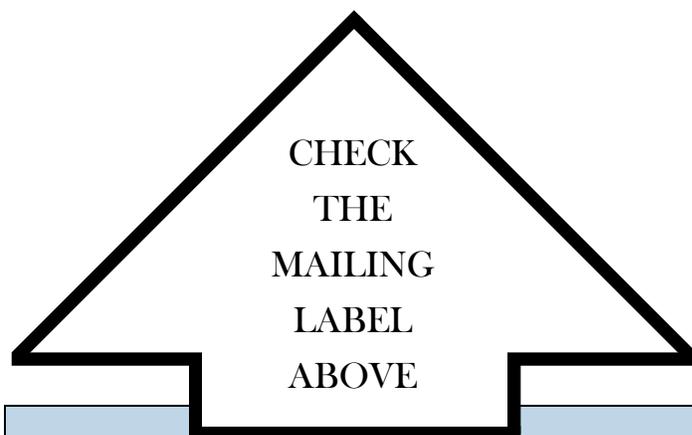
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CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 4 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Hot Topic: Measure Y	Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce 475 14th Street Oakland, CA 94612
Monday, December 9 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	St. Paul's Towers 17th Floor Library 100 Bay Place Oakland, CA 94610
Friday, December 13 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Holiday Party	Check your directory for the address



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.