

The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY
and EMERYVILLE



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Summer, 2000

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LWVBAE Annual Report Issue

President's Report 2000

“We Are the Future of the League -
As We Treasure the Past & Lead Into the Future”

Thanks to everyone who has helped to make the 1999-2000 LWVBAE League year such a rewarding experience for us all. As I look back on the very many activities of our Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville League, I am amazed at the consistently high quality of the volunteer work that has resulted in our League's effective presence in our three cities.

We can be proud of having fulfilled the League's mission for another year in a myriad of ways. And that mission is: “The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.”

When we of the 1999-2000 Board of Directors began our tenure with realistic enthusiasm and hope last July, we held the traditional future planning meeting and came up with an ambitious plan for the year. We created this plan within the framework of a program proposed by the state League. It was called **BUILDING THE FUTURE**. Each member received a copy in the October 1999 *Voter*.

Our goals were to make our League even stronger to deal with the challenges of the new century. As LWVBAE was regarded by others and ourselves as strong in ACTION, we chose six other categories to work on:

- MEMBERSHIP GROWTH
- MEMBER ENRICHMENT
- DIVERSITY
- VOTER SERVICE
- DEVELOPMENT
- PROGRAM

In **MEMBERSHIP GROWTH** we have done surprisingly well. As of July last year, we had 407 members on the books, and the state League (LWVC) asked all CA Leagues to increase by at least a net of 5%. That meant an increase of 21 new members over the 407. However, we had less

-(Continued on Page 5)

p. 2	President's Column
p. 3	Thanks To ASUC Volunteers Thanks To Vista Volunteers May Board Briefs
p. 4	Donors and New Members Personals Special LWVBAE Merit Awards
p. 5	President's Report (continued)
p. 6	President's Report (continued) What's Ahead For Emeryville?
p. 7	Albany Report eScrip Fund-raising Program
p. 8	Action Team Administration Team .
p. 9	Community Services Team Development Team
p. 10	Development Team (continued)
p. 11	Program Team (cont. on p. 12)
p. 12	Program Team (continued) Environmental Concerns
p. 13	Berkeley Council/Mgr. Interviews Welcome Karen; Goodbye Linda
p. 14	Calendar

President's Column The League's Future –

Is the League of Women Voters relevant to the 21st century? That answer requires cosmic meditation and perhaps a crystal ball. More to the point: Is LWV relevant to the presidential election of November 2000 and to the democratic process as it will be evolving in the United States over the next five, ten or twenty-five years?

The League has been “cutting edge” in providing leadership to citizens and to every aspect of making democracy work in our country since LWV's inception in 1920 when the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed. In those eight decades between then and now our influence has grown and our track record has been ever more solid and impressive at the local, state, and national levels. The League has done this as a grassroots organization, and it is this grassroots aspect that has been a key element of our success. We have always kept our eye on the future needs of our democratic society and have not been content to tread water.

I won't recite the specifics of League achievements, for many are well aware of our formidable past accomplishments. However, no organization can survive long relying on its reputation, no matter how well deserved. As with most organizations, League has experienced periods of more and less membership, vision, and effective activity over the years. It would appear that now we are experiencing the symptoms of needing a new approach, renewed will, and perhaps a new structure to take us beyond the rocky path we find the organization on -- and into the next decade as the vibrant, useful, and leading citizen nonpartisan political organization that our country needs.

What can be done to assure that our current organizational trend to “minding the store” with hesitant steps will move forward confidently towards the future in the right direction? First our grassroots must acknowledge the situation. Then our local and state Leagues should empower the national leadership to convene regional conferences over a short period of time and as soon as possible to discuss the direction League must take, both internally and externally, to stay not only relevant, but “cutting edge” in helping to lead our citizens and our country in making democracy work for the first quarter of the 21st century and thereafter. Our founders and their forebears, the suffragists, dealt with the long historical view, and our generation is capable of no less.

Internally, LWVUS must craft a different structure that is more responsive and responsible to the local and state Leagues. Some suggestions: Instead of only three or four national Board meetings per year in Washington, small regional meetings should be held to keep local and state Leagues better informed and involved in the national decision-making loop. Members of the national Board could be chosen regionally by a regional Nominating Committee that corresponded to the regional division for the regional meetings (e.g., the same or similar division as for the nine Supreme Court Circuits).

For some, this may seem too radical; for others, not radical enough. – But the League must consider how better to operate and meet the expectations of its members through a re-structure.

Externally, LWVUS should consider the main problems facing our democracy. Campaign Finance Reform is truly one of these and we have carried its banner, but perhaps not militantly enough. We could reclaim the Presidential Debates, studying how best to do it while allying the broadcast media. Doing a realistic study of how to improve the workings of Congress and then convening a national conference on the topic, perhaps partnering with like-minded organizations, would provide leadership on an important problem facing our nation. There are additional basic problems that our democracy faces after 200+ years and as the premier nonpartisan political grassroots organization in the U.S., we should assess where to concentrate our efforts to help lead the way to an improved democracy in the next century.

As LWVBAE's delegates, those from California, and those from the rest of the nation go off to LWVUS National Convention 2000 in Washington, D.C., we'll all be grappling not only with the Agenda set before us, but also with thoughts such as those presented above. This national Convention 2000 promises to be a seminal one in the annals of the League of Women Voters. The next *VOTER* will carry a report. Meanwhile, please write your thoughts on the topic to me at the League office: 1414 University Avenue, Suite D, Berkeley 94702; by Fax: 510/843-8828; or by e-mail to me at joannprice@prodigy.net.

Have a Great Summer!

-J o A nn

Thanks To ASUC Election Volunteers

Another student body election at UC Berkeley is complete, and we have many people to thank for a successful effort. Their collective energy resulted in a net "gift" to the LWVBAE of over \$7,000. Some 65 League members and their spouses worked at tasks that ranged from sorting the ballots before the election began through overseeing the ballot counting two weeks later. Several people filled more than one slot, some over two or three days, and all with such good cheer. We were assisted this year by the Piedmont League, which provided an additional 23 volunteers to help cover the over 100 tasks required for this election.

Our thanks to: *Suzanne Adams, Polly Amrein, Eva Bansner, Jane Bergen, Nancy Bickel, Ida Braun, Eva Brecher, Cecile Briar, Frances Brown, Lois Brubeck, Mary Canfield, Helen Canin, Marilyn Couch, Jane and Tom Coulter, Eleanor Cox, Ann Crowe, Anne and Bob Culver, Peggy Anne and Bill Davis, Richard Diamond, Louetta Erlin, Vi Feinauer, Ruth Ganong, Heidi Gillies, Joan Glassey, Mary Hampton, Mim and Bob Hawley, Mary Jacobson, Pat Kuhl, and Janet Johnston.*

Thanks also to *Louise Larson, Virginia Laurence, Helene Lecar, Elizabeth Lichtenberg, Dorothy Lindheim, Marion Luten, Jill Martinucci, Doris Maslach, Winnie McLaughlin, Jean Moses, Doris Nassiry, Penny Nellis, Barbara Nelson, Karen Nelson, Allie Norton, Nina Olson, Fran Packard, Ginette Polak, Linda Polsby, Jo Ann Price, Barbara Renton, Jean Safir, and Yvonne San Jule.* More thanks to *Susan Schwartz, Sally Severance, Judd Smith, Beth Springston, Barbara Stern, Clyde Taylor, Alice Thompson, Frances Tittmann, Lassie Ulman, Mary Wainwright, Mary Wallmann, Phoebe Watts, Carol Weinmann, and Lenora Young.*

-*Sherry Smith, Community Services VP*

Thanks To Vista College Election Volunteers

As many LWVBAE members are aware, each year our League participates in a massive project of poll-watching and ballot-counting for the student body election of the ASUC at UC Berkeley.

-(Continued in next column)

May Board Briefs

The Board met at the Albany Library on the third of May.

A policy for handling bequests was adopted. Bequests of \$2000 or less will go into the Reserve Fund. The first \$2000 of larger bequests will go into the Reserve Fund and the remainder into the Endowment Fund.

We had 408 members in April.

Plans for the Annual Meeting in June were reviewed.

We earned over \$7000 for our work in the ASUC elections and in May earned \$600 for monitoring the Vista College elections.

The booklet, Know Your Town: Berkeley, is nearly completed.

The Development Committee has ordered T-shirts and tote bags, with League identification on them, to sell as a fundraising project. Prices are \$15 for a short-sleeved T-shirt, \$20 for a long sleeved one, and \$18 for a tote bag. They may be purchased in the office.

The Second Annual Community Luncheon will be held on August 24 at the Holiday Inn on the Emeryville waterfront (at Powell Street).

-*Violet Feinauer, Secretary*



In recent years we are also involved with a smaller version of those tasks at Vista College in Berkeley.

This year, Vista conducted two separate elections: one, a two-day affair to elect a student representative to serve on the Peralta District Board; the other, a one-day student body officer election.

As contrasted with the ASUC experience, there is only one polling place and therefore only one League volunteer needed for each shift. A big thanks to the following people who worked those shifts over these three days: *Suzanne Adams, Polly Amrein, Lois Brubeck, Virginia Laurence, Allie Norton, Nina Olson, Jo Ann Price, Sherry Smith, and Mary Wainwright.* Their work provided a contribution by Vista College of \$600 to the League.

-*Sherry Smith, Community Services VP*

Donors Through June 5

General Fund

Anonymous	<i>T. E. Lobman</i>
<i>Marilyn Couch</i>	<i>Allie Norton</i>
<i>Eleanor Cox</i>	<i>Dr. Gene S. Poschman</i>
<i>Patricia Kates</i>	<i>Susan S. Pownall</i>

Foundation

*Georgia V. Becker** *Ann-Marie Hogan*
Dorothy Field

* In Memory of *Meda Rechen*

Welcome to New and Rejoined* Members

<i>Barbara Alesandrini*</i>	<i>Kristin Homme*</i>
<i>Ann Brick</i>	<i>Nadia LeBon*</i>
<i>David Church</i>	<i>Karen Libby*</i>
<i>Nora Davis</i>	<i>Linda Maio</i>
<i>Pamela Drew</i>	<i>Clara Pellegrino</i>
<i>Gerald Griffin</i>	<i>Stephen Swanson</i>
<i>Penelope Hanan</i>	<i>Zasa Swanson</i>
<i>Alia Hawkes</i>	<i>Marian Sylvester</i>
<i>Tom Hawkes</i>	<i>Kriss Worthington*</i>
<i>Jean Henry</i>	

Personals

Sylvia McLaughlin has stepped down as a board member of Save San Francisco Bay, the organization she co-founded more than 40 years ago. During her long term, the organization was responsible for stopping the land fill of 3/4 of the bay and stopping the building of two 18-story hotels on the edge of the Emeryville marshlands. Sylvia has been quoted as saying "The bay is never really saved." Sylvia has been an active LWVB/LWVBAE member for at least 35 years.

The travel bug has struck LWVBAE anew. *Ruth-ann Taylor* has returned from a month's Elder Hostel walking tour of Switzerland and a bicycle tour of France; *Nina Olson* is off caravanning with family and friends; *Renate Tubman* toured Europe in early spring.

John Benardin spent several weeks in the Philippines in January on a mission of mercy. *John*, president of his local rotary club, was responsible for organizing the mission and collecting medical supplies and equipment, which included everything from gurneys to phials of medication which filled a 10x10x20-foot container. The mission established the only intensive care unit in the Philippines, performed 69 major surgeries, and treated over 3000 patients in four and one-half days.

Of LWVBAE's five delegates to the National Convention (President *Jo Ann Price*, *Anne Henderson*, *Helene Lecar*, *Jean Safir*, and *Beth Springston*), three will travel at the conclusion of the convention. *Jo Ann* will take her annual summer junket to New Hampshire; *Jean Safir* will visit with family and friends in Pennsylvania and New York; and *Beth Springston* will visit Iceland, Greenland, and the Norse Countries (we trust she will get a warm reception). Two other LWVBAE members will attend convention as delegates for other California Leagues: *Jane Bergen* and *Doris Fine*.

Eleanor Cox has returned home after attending the graduations of three of her grandchildren: Kathleen from SFSU, Christina and Todd Pelham from Laguna Creek High School in Elk Grove. Christina received special recognition for having completed a four-year curriculum in three years. She has been appointed a Rotary Exchange student and will continue her education in the Netherlands. Todd has been awarded the Laguna Creek year 2000 Outstanding Senior Award with a certificate in Science, was appointed to Life Membership in California Scholarship Forum, received California Senate recognition of Excellence Award in Chemistry, the John Philip Sousa Award for Most Talented Musician, and the Bank of America Achievements Award. Todd will attend UCSD.

Erika Kunkel visited the LWVBAE office in May. She is remarkably mobile after having had recent knee replacements in both legs.

-*Eleanor Cox*, Corresponding Secretary

Congratulations!

Special LWVBAE Merit Awards

At the Annual Meeting on June 1, three highly deserving members were honored with Special Merit Awards by the Board. Violet Feinauer was cited for her ten years of exceptional service as Secretary of the Board, serving with five presidents since 1990. Evelyn Light was honored for her many years of committed and invaluable work with membership, office volunteers, the VOTER, fundraising events, and League studies. Nina Olson was commended for her many hours of tireless computer work over the years, keeping our membership records accurate and up to date. All three women are stellar examples of the kind of effective members we're proud to have in the League.

-*Jo Ann B. Price*, President

President's Report 2000

(continued from Page 1)

than a year to achieve this in order to fit within LWVC'S deadline of April 1, 2000.

Our Membership Team of *Mary Wainwright* - Development VP, *Carol Voisin* - Membership Chair, *Winnie McLaughlin* - Co-Chair, and *Nina Olson* and *Mina Jenner* - Membership Records, put in a fantastic effort. First, they contacted those who, for one reason or another, had not recently paid dues and offered an amnesty period at a lower rate for past dues. After the rolls were cleared, they worked hard to convince the Board to each bring in 2 new members, while continuously requesting the members to each bring in a new member. We were a little concerned at first when our numbers went down to the 380's. But then we began to hand out the League's "JOIN US" brochure more aggressively and to talk about the League to friends and colleagues. We held new and prospective member meetings at the office. And we began to get new members. Although we couldn't reach our goal by the state's deadline of April 1, *Mary Wainwright* reports we now have 428 members.

Under the **MEMBERSHIP ENRICHMENT** category, we included skills forms in the September *Voter* to ask members to return the information that would tell us what experience they had, where they would like to work in the League, and what workshops they'd like to have available. This category involves the opportunity to offer training in every facet of League. *Jean Safir*, Program VP, put together a high-powered committee to ensure the Speaker Series would attract both League and community members to their monthly lunchtime programs. They were successful. Voter Services offered training in presenting the issues on the March ballot to an audience. This service was more popular than ever. We partnered with LWVC's Smart Voter Internet project that offered computer training. We continue to work on membership enrichment and look to each of you to tell us what you'd like offered in this area.

Under the **DIVERSITY** category, the Board voted to make every effort to improve our League's diversity numbers by 10% and to aim for a League that looked like the residents of our three cities. That meant socio-economic, ethnic, racial, gender, professional, and age diversity. It's a tough nut to

crack, and one that can't be achieved in one year - but we have made improvements and we're committed to keep working on this. We look to your suggestions for new strategies to accomplish our goal.

Under the category of **VOTER SERVICE**, we sought to inform the citizens of our three cities in new and effective ways. With the March Presidential primary, we had a terrific opportunity. We greatly expanded our distribution of Voter Registration forms under the leadership of *Allie Norton*. We expanded our Pros & Cons and Easy Reader distribution under Voter Service Chair *Phoebe Watts*, and our Pros & Cons Issues meetings under *Eloise Bodine* and *Jane Coulter*, who took over after *Meda Rechen's* death. Our Community Services VP, *Sherry Smith*, in whose bailiwick all these community and voter services exist, arranged a candidates night in October in Emeryville, our only city to have a fall candidate election. Under *Jill Martinucci*, chair of the TV/Video Project, we were able to produce and tape shows on some of the March propositions for viewing on Channel 25 B-TV, as well as for borrowing by individuals. Our California League's wonderful and effective Smart Voter Internet service was chaired locally by *Phoebe Watts*.

Under the **DEVELOPMENT** category, we branched out to inaugurate a Community Luncheon as an annual event. Leadership here was provided by *Karen Nelson* - Chair, *Mary Wainwright* - Development VP, and *Ruth Ganong* and *Beth Springston* - Board members. It was a great success and we're looking forward to the 2nd Annual Community Luncheon in August, with another high level speaker.

The Board and I thank you for your continued, committed, and wholehearted response to the League's important annual fund raising letter. In an attempt to try new areas, we decided to take a small risk and become entrepreneurial for the sale of League tote bags and T-shirts. With the League conventions and councils scheduled this spring, we have been successful in selling a goodly number. But we still need your purchases to make a substantial return on our investment.

Under the **PROGRAM** category, the committed work and results of the following members are greatly admired and speak for themselves: Program VP *Jean Safir* and her Program Team - *Suzanne Adams* - Housing Study Chair, and her committee; *John*

President's Report (continued from Page 5)

Reynolds - Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) Study Chair, and his committee; *Helene Lecar* - Vista College Study Chair, and her committee; *Yvonne San Jule* - Local Decisions, Regional Impacts, Bay Area Chair and local chair, and her committee. Our members have been involved this spring with the consensus meetings for each study. It has been an intense and very worthwhile year for our League, with updated positions about to be adopted in the fall in the local areas of study, and updated positions already adopted by the Bay Area League.

Underlying these specific endeavors has been the basic and necessary work of our Action VP, *Lois Brubeck*, and the Action Committee; our Administrative VP, *Ginette Polak*, with the Office Team and our *Voter* newsletter Editor *Bob Hawley*; our Community Services VP, *Sherry Smith* who negotiated, arranged, and administered the ASUC election in the Spring with the cooperation of our entire membership (who turn out for oversight shifts on the UCB campus over 3-4 days); Treasurer *Beth Springston* who is also the Emeryville Representative; our Secretary *Violet Feinauer*; and the important supporting work of our Board members *Ruth Ganong* - Albany Representative, *Virginia Laurence* - Health and Welfare, and *Yvonne San Jule* - Bay Area Liaison. Please read each Vice President's Annual Report in this issue to appreciate the details of each one's effective work this year. The concept of total Board responsibility is what really makes a Board click and work together well. These people have it in spades.

I want to thank every member of our Board for a most remarkable year, wish those who are going on to other endeavors the luck to have as good a group to work with as we had this year, and for those who are remaining on the Board and those who are coming on - I say let's have a great time doing the League's work and enjoying the camaraderie that League interaction so nicely provides. **LET'S LEAD THE FUTURE OF THE LEAGUE BY MAKING DEMOCRACY TRULY WORK IN OUR CORNER OF CALIFORNIA!**

-Jo Ann B. Price, President 1999-2000

What's Ahead For Emeryville?

Interviews were conducted with several Council members and City officials recently. They see a lot of challenges in the upcoming year: defining what will make Emeryville a more "liveable" city, getting more green/open space, traffic, parking and completing the large South Bayfront project. But how to work with residents and businesses to bring about the changes needed may be the biggest challenge.

Infrastructure work continues to be needed: sewers, storm drains, sidewalks, streets, traffic lights, underground utilities are the major ones. Much has been done in the last few years, much remains to be done. Since Emeryville isn't an island, many of these projects depend on cooperation with CalTrans and surrounding cities, and coordinating or pushing them into action is a challenge in itself. They look forward to the day when San Pablo Avenue is resurfaced, the Ashby interchange is re-done, the MacArthur on-ramp is re-opened, the 580 connector is finished and there's a continuous pedestrian/bike path along the East Shore.

Parking is a problem that is becoming increasingly frustrating to residents, so the feasibility of one or more parking structures will probably be studied again this year. Another goal is a permanent Recreation Center. The rec center, along with the senior center, have been very successful in the last few years. That's not to say there aren't more social service needs in the city, such as affordable housing, housing for welfare-to-work families, and perhaps an assisted living facility. But how much more housing the city residents are willing to accept is an open question - along with what housing goals the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) will impose on Emeryville.

What role the City government could or should have in helping the Emeryville schools improve is a question no one could answer easily. The extremely low scores received, by Emery High in particular, have not gone unnoticed. The Emery Unified School District is its own jurisdiction, but they hope the EUSD will be able to take advantage of some of the resources and contacts the City government has to offer.

In short, no one in the City government is relaxing these days. They've succeeded in bringing a good balance of retail, housing, and commercial offices to Emeryville, but still see a lot of challenges to be met.

-Beth Springston, Emeryville Representative

Albany Report

The League individually interviewed three Albany officials - the City Administrator, the Mayor, and the Vice Mayor. There was unanimous expression of concern about Albany's financial situation. The City is "built out", has no industrial property base, and the State has withheld more and more support systems, such as gas tax moneys. We are lacking funds for needed maintenance, capital improvements and social programs.

Most cities the size of Albany are unable to provide services such as a Senior Center, a Teen Center, crossing guards, and Childcare Programs. Somehow, Albany manages to provide these services, but minimally, and at the expense of capital improvements and maintenance.

Special assessments have been levied for general services such as lighting, parks, sewers, etc., to alleviate the situation somewhat, but Albany is keenly aware of needed corrections to the infrastructure. The swampy area at Memorial Park is a health concern. The loss of Little League Field seriously erodes our recreation facilities. Repairing the three "s's" - streets, sidewalks and sewers - should be done before more major damage occurs. Potholes must be fixed or the streets will deteriorate further. Sidewalks are heaving and will become a liability. Storm sewers overflow in stormy weather, and are a health hazard. The City is setting aside \$50,000 a year for capital improvements.

Albany has had more than its share of homeless problems because of the use by the homeless of the unfinished landfill. In bad economic times people are homeless because of unemployment. Now, with jobs going begging, many homeless people have made a life-style choice, and this is much harder to deal with. A recent jury ruled that the homeless could use the landfill if we didn't offer them anything else.

Albany recently adopted a Traffic Management Plan that was three years in the making. The premise of the plan was a major shift in traffic thinking - from getting automobiles through the city as rapidly as possible, to making Albany a safer, more pleasant place by calming traffic, and making pedestrian safety more of a priority. At least twenty-five public hearings and workshops occurred during the process of adopting the Plan. There was much input from the residents. The most controversial aspect is reducing

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eScrip - A Promising Fund- raising Program

You can make a significant contribution to LWVBAE by signing up for eScrip. This program allows our members (and an unlimited number of their relatives and friends) to register their credit cards, debit cards, and loyalty cards (such as the Safeway Club Card) with eScrip so that each time they shop at a participating merchant with that card, a percentage of the money they spend will automatically be donated to LWVBAE. Joining this program costs only \$10 a year per person and allows you to register up to 6 credit/debit/loyalty cards.

Currently participating merchants include (partial list): Safeway 2-4% depending on monthly purchases, Andronico's 3-5% depending on monthly purchases, Whole Foods 5%, American Airlines 4%, Cody's Books 4%, Orvis 10%, Eddie Bauer 10%, Chevron 2%. You will receive a complete up-to-date list of participating merchants with your registration.

We also continue to sell Andronico's paper scrip, which we buy at the store at a 6% discount. If you shop regularly at Andronico's, we urge you to use their scrip instead of, or in addition to, eScrip. We will be happy to deliver it to your door every other month by request.

If you have any questions about these programs, or if you would like to sign up for them, please call me at 527-1992.

-Eva Brecher



traffic lanes on Marin Avenue from two in each direction to one in each direction, but adding a middle turn lane, and bike paths on both sides. The final adoption included additional studies on Marin, and a program to test the various options before final implementation.

-Ruth Ganong, LWVBAE Albany Representative

Vice Presidents' Annual Reports

On this and following pages are the reports from LWVBAE Vice Presidents covering our 1999/2000 fiscal year.

Action Team

Meeting the third Wednesday of the month at the home of *Phoebe Watts*, members and observers brought reports on local, state and national items. *Beth Springston* gave full updates on Emeryville's developments; *Ruth Ganong*, on Albany; and *Carrie Sprague*, Berkeley, while *Yvonne San Jule* covered Bay Area issues, and *Eva Bansner* authored several letters suggesting changes in Berkeley's General Plan process. *Doris Maslach* covered housing, while *Virginia Laurence* watched events at Alameda County's new Children and Families First Commission. *Helene Lecar* was involved in a wide range of school issues, starting in September with a letter to the School Board on the need to fully inform the community on its new Promotion/Retention policy. *Lenora Young* and *Ann Crowe* were steady contributors to our discussions. We conducted interviews with city council members and managers, as well as our state representatives.

Responding to calls for action by LWVC and LWVUS, we wrote letters urging action on gun violence prevention, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Patients' Bill of Rights, payment of our UN arrears, several bills affecting reproductive health care and mental health. Before the March election, we joined other groups in opposition to Proposition 21, the Juvenile Crime Initiative, and circulated materials urging citizens to "vote with the League" on those ballot initiatives that the LWVC supported or opposed. In all, it was a full and busy year.

-*Lois Brubeck*, Action VP

Administration Team

The Administrative team works mostly behind the scenes and in the League office. We enable other aspects of the League to function more smoothly, and we produce and mail various local League publications. Fulfilling our duties requires the help of many people.

At the hub of League activities are the League members who staff the office, assisting members and the public in person or by phone, FAX, postal and e-mail.

Coordinating the recruitment, training and scheduling of Office Volunteers this year have been sequentially *Barbara Stern*, *Evelyn Light*, and *Ruthann Taylor*. Our sincere thanks goes to each of them and to all of the following who signed up for a morning or afternoon shift of Office Volunteer duty:

<i>Lois Brubeck</i>	<i>Allie Norton</i>
<i>Eleanor Cox</i>	<i>Ginette Polak</i>
<i>Peggy Anne Davis</i>	<i>Marjorie Rubinow</i>
<i>Violet Feinauer</i>	<i>Jean Safir</i>
<i>Ruth Ganong</i>	<i>Yvonne San Jule</i>
<i>Bruce Harris</i>	<i>Sherry Smith</i>
<i>Emma Lue Kopp</i>	<i>Beth Springston</i>
<i>Louise Larson</i>	<i>Barbara Stern</i>
<i>Virginia Laurence</i>	<i>Janet Strothman</i>
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	<i>Ruthann Taylor</i>
<i>Evelyn Light</i>	<i>Mary Wainwright</i>
<i>Marion Luten</i>	<i>Phoebe Watts</i>
<i>Karen Nelson</i>	<i>Lenora Young</i>

Thanks to *Beth Springston* for arranging the donation of foldable tables and stackable chairs to replace our old furniture. Thanks also to *Marion* and *Dan Luten* for the gift of a matching bookcase. The other new office acquisition was a video player to allow viewing our growing number of League-produced videotapes. Last July our surplus old Epson printer and IBM typewriter were donated to a local charity.

Throughout the year our Administrative Assistant, *Linda Carothers*, has successfully worked to make our office an attractive, clean, productive, and cheerful place. She worked closely with the membership team, assisted the president with special projects, and by reliably performing her varied duties helped me enjoy mine. As she moves on to employment elsewhere more in line with her artistic interests, we thank her for her service to the League and wish her well in her future endeavors.

A hearty thanks goes to *Bob Hawley*, who continued as the producer-editor for our local *Voter*, and to our faithful proofreaders, *Evelyn Light* and *Marj Rubinow*. Also many thanks to the stalwart *Voter* mailing team who collated, sealed, labeled, bundled, and otherwise got the *Voter* mailed every month under *Linda Carothers'* direction: *Eleanor Cox*, *Barbara Nelson*, and *Allie Norton*. Thanks also to *Virginia Laurence* and *Janet Strothman* for their frequent assistance, and to those who helped at least once: *Emma Lue Kopp*, *Joanne Kowalski*, *Ruth Maguire*, *Yvonne San Jule*, and *Sherry Smith*. A

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Administration Team (continued)

special thanks also to *Evelyn Light* for helping Linda in November with mailing the Finance Drive appeal.

More special thanks go to *Bill Chapman* for updating our League Website and providing training on our computer upon request, and to *Bob Hawley*, who fielded questions about computer problems.

Eleanor Cox served admirably as Donations Secretary, diligently tracking donations to the League and to the LWVB Foundation so donors could be thanked.

Lenora Young kept the publications display useful, ordered new reference materials, and coordinated the sale of LWV calendars. She also assisted me with the January 2000 edition of Who Represents Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville, as did Linda Carothers, *Bob Hawley*, and *Beth Springston*.

In addition to her various other roles in the League, *Evelyn Light* was crucial in revising the Office Volunteers' Manual. Also assisting in this production were *Eleanor Cox* and *Winnie McLaughlin*.

Board members deserve thanks for phoning a large portion of the membership to foster rapport and encourage attendance at General Meetings, and for cooperating in producing the League Directory last fall. And without the persistence of *Jo Ann Price*, the revised Board Handbook would not be so thoroughly revamped and restyled.

-*Ginette Polak*, Administrative VP

Community Services Team

The Community Services Team was involved in coordinating the following projects this year:

1. In terms of people resources, our largest task was recruiting and directing the efforts of some 100 volunteers in overseeing the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) election this spring. We collaborated with the Piedmont League (they provided about one-third of the election workers), and the effect was so beneficial to both groups that this will be a joint project in the future, with the LWVBAE taking the lead responsibility.

2. Last fall, we were asked to perform the same kind of election oversight tasks that we do for the ASUC, for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation. They sponsored a campus election in an attempt to have student fees raised to underwrite expenses having to do with Title IX compliance as well as refurbishment of the Recreational Sports Facility at Cal. And we have also done the "poll-sitting" for two elections

at Vista College this year. The bottom line in this boom year for campus elections: our League has made nearly \$12,000 income, due entirely to the willingness of so many League members to volunteer their time.

3. The only local governmental election this year was the City Council contests in Emeryville, and the LWVBAE presented two candidates' nights for that community. We will be a great deal busier in late summer and fall this year, with Albany and Berkeley City Council elections both on the November ballot.

4. We continue to register voters whenever and wherever asked to do so, and once again thank *Allie Norton* for coordinating this effort.

5. Thanks to the work of *Phoebe Watts* and *Beth Springston*, we are involved with the Internet "Smart Voter" project, helping local candidates to present pertinent information to voters by way of the Web. That effort will intensify as the candidates announce and launch their campaigns.

6. "Know Your Town-Berkeley" is a project under the capable direction of *Fran Packard*. It is anticipated that the descriptive booklet will be ready for distribution this fall.

Heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the League who has been involved with these projects. We could have done none of them without you.

-*Sherry Smith*, Community Services VP

Development Team

The purpose of Development is to foster growth in local membership, develop new strategies to disseminate information about the League, and enhance its fund-raising to support League activities. This year the Development Committee enjoyed a productive season, as many of its new and senior officers worked with great dedication to improve upon past years successes. The hard work of the committee members and its officers, *Carol Voisin*, Membership Chair; *Mina Jenner* and *Nina Olson*, Records; *Eva Brecher*, Grocery Scrip; *Karen Nelson*, Special Events/Fund-Raising; *Elsa Tranter*, Public Relations; and *Therese Pipe*, Oral History, are evidenced in this report.

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Development Team (continued)

Membership

This year the membership team continued to improve and enhance past years' successes in its recruitment. With the assistance of past Chair *Winnie McLaughlin* and the tedious records maintenance of *Mina Jenner* and *Nina Olson*, Chair *Voisin* provided the rich leadership and support to increase the League's membership. Chair *Voison* spent numerous hours mailing renewal notices and following up with phone calls to reach existing and new potential members. This year the membership was increased in quantity as well as diversity; 30 new members joined LWVBAE, increasing the League's total to 428. The Board is also grateful for the work of past Chair *Winnie McLaughlin* and *Jean Safir*, who were also instrumental in this year's increase. Of the new members, 25% are African American and Asian. The success of our recruitment has brought about a level of diversity and representation, which crosses all segments of the Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville communities.

While we are encouraged by the successes of this past year, the real effort to building our organization lies in a commitment from each and every member. The Membership Committee is dedicated to improving last year's totals by enlisting the efforts of each and every member. We are encouraged and see last year's success as just the beginning of what is yet to come.

Special Events/Fund-Raisers

Inaugural Fund-Raiser Luncheon

Special Events Chair *Karen Nelson* headed a successful fund-raising effort for LWVBAE. In an attempt to introduce new and innovative fund-raising strategies, the League sponsored its first "Community Luncheon" fund-raiser on August 23, 1999, to bring together local decision-makers, business, University leaders and League members. The purpose of the inaugural luncheon was to feature a speaker who had a message of interest to the community. *I. Michael Heyman*, former Chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, and then Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, spoke to nearly 200 enthusiastic guests and participants who donated over \$4,500 dollars to the League's cause. Special thanks goes to our Honorary Committee, League members and friends who donated their time and effort to make this event a success; *Jo Ann B. Price*, President; *Ruth Ganong*, Albany Chair; *Beth Springston*, Emeryville Chair; *Karen Nelson*, Special Events Coordinator / Luncheon Director; *Kristina Lim*, Art work donations;

Marylyn Coons, Design layout and typesetting; *Beth Springston* for "Save the Date" flyer; and many others who assisted with the tedious, but very important tasks of stuffing envelopes, and assisting in areas where needed. As a result of last year's success, the League has decided to host the luncheon annually.

T-Shirts and Tote Bags

LWVBAE recently introduced its new T-shirts and tote bags. A catchy slogan, "Not for Women Only", is printed on the T-shirts and bags. After only a month the T-shirt and bag sales have been very successful and are already showing a profit. The T-shirts sell for \$15 and \$20 dollars and the tote bags for \$18 dollars. A total of twenty-five T-shirts and thirty-three bags have been sold thus far. Total gross sales are over \$1,000.

Grocery Scrip Program

Scrip Chair *Eva Brecher* reports that the Scrip program for the past fiscal year has not been as productive as past years. We distributed \$78,940 worth of Safeway and Andronico's scrip for a profit of \$4,552. Unfortunately this is a 38% drop in volume and a 35% drop in profit due to Safeway's discontinuing their paper scrip last fall. A total of 59 League members and 5 non-members took part in the program. Our participation in the new eScrip program is starting very slowly. At the end of February only 15 members had signed up. It is evident that we will need to work on getting the word out to each of our members to improve on last year's performance. However, our interest in the scrip program remains high. The assistance of many of our volunteers continues to represent the confidence and commitment to the program, as six League members assisted Chair *Brecher* with distributing the scrip and two others helped out with phone calls.

Public Relations & Oral History

Chair *Elsa Tranter* prepared and delivered press releases to local and Bay Area newspapers highlighting League activities. The success of last year's August inaugural community luncheon fund-raiser can be attributed, in large part, to the our press releases and the subsequent publicity received for the event. Additionally, press releases were generated in

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Development Team (continued)

December publicizing our very important public meeting on Family Violence and in January for Voter Education Week - January 31 - February 7, 2000. LWVBAE continued to work with the local B-TV, Berkeley Cablevision channel 25, posting press releases on the B-TV bulletin board. The League also participated in the annual Solano Stroll distributing literature and information about the League.

Therese Pipe has been compiling facts on three League members. They are *Felicia Bock*, *Gilda Feller* and *Margaret Dumas*. We look forward to knowing more about these great leaders.

-*Mary L. Wainwright*, Development VP

Program Team

Fall Membership Meeting

The program year started, as usual, with the Fall Membership Meeting of 1999, on September 23. Michael Pyatok, architect and designer of award-winning housing developments, delighted us with a slide show and talk on Designs for Affordable Family Housing. It fit right in with our Housing Study and gave us all a better understanding of the problems and the opportunities for solutions.

Speaker Series

A newly formed committee - *Doris Mendell*, *Barbara Nelson*, *Janet Strothman*, *Lenora Young* and led by yours truly - generated a great list of subjects and found good speakers for this informative monthly series. The subjects covered were:

- Redistricting after the 2000 Census
- The Family Violence Law Center in Berkeley
- A Tour of Columbus Community School
- Economic Development programs in Berkeley
- Public Health Programs and Services
- Immigration and Naturalization

Environmental Concerns

Regular monthly gatherings at *Eva Bansner*'s home continued this year, with speakers on a wide range of environmental subjects. These included the California Futures Network, the Bay Area Open Space Council, East Bay groundwater resources and water supply, transportation, recycling, the General Plan, ecological city design and, for the final meeting of the year, the "Million Mom March." The committee making all the arrangements for speakers and publicity were *Eva Bansner*, *Erika Kunkel* and *Gail Schickele*. Thanks for another stimulating year.

Studies and Consensus Units

The biggest part of Program activities this past year were the four studies we undertook - three to amend our local positions and one to help revise positions of the Bay Area League.

The three local studies ended the year with Consensus **Units** and new Positions recommended by the Board for adoption at the Fall Membership Meeting. After that, it is expected that the Action Committee will have a lot of new issues to follow and new policies on which to take action.

The Bay Area study in which we participated, entitled **Local Decisions / Regional Impacts**, developed new positions on regional planning and governance. These were adopted at the LWVBA annual meeting in May. Our local study committee included *Lois Brubeck*, *Beth Springston*, *Lucie Buchbinder*, and *Jean Safir*, who was the leader.

Units for all four studies were well attended and everyone left well-informed, thanks to the dedicated committee members who worked hard to bring us their study findings. Thanks also to those who served as discussion leaders and recorders: *Eva Bansner*, *Jane Barrett*, *Jane Bergen*, *Eloise Bodine*, *Lois Brubeck*, *Jane Coulter*, *Doris Fine*, *Bruce Harris*, *Mim Hawley*, *Anne Henderson*, *Winnie McLaughlin*, *Yvonne San Jule*, *Jo Ann Price*, *Jean Safir*, *Pat Wadleigh* and *Phoebe Watts*.

The **Housing Study** committee was led by *Suzanne Adams*, with members including *Doris Maslach*, *Diana Bilovsky*, *Jean Safir* and *Renate Tubman*. There was so much material to gather and digest, that it took two years to bring the study to its conclusion. Newly adopted positions will apply to each of our three cities, where previously League positions applied only to Berkeley. This summer, the group plans to prepare a final report, so that all their valuable background information is available and accessible to others in the future.

The **Instant Runoff Voting** study focused on the advantages and disadvantages of using this new voting system in contests where only one candidate is to be elected, there are three or more candidates running and 50% plus one vote determines the winner. Voters would be asked to rank candidates, so that if no one has a majority of first choice votes, second choices are taken into account, and then third,

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Program Team (continued)

if needed. It was definitely a learning experience for all who participated. The study committee included *John Reynolds*, chair, *Jim Lindsay*, *Beth Springston*, *Marda Stothers*, *Joan Strasser* and *Phoebe Watts*.

The **Community College / Vista Study** has been looking at the programs, facilities, staffing and budget available at Vista, in relation to the other colleges in the Peralta District. This has been a year of many changes at the district level, so the study committee has had their work cut out for them just trying to keep their "moving target" in focus. In spite of that, they brought us to consensus on some new positions, and the annual meeting last month voted to continue the study for another year. The study committee consisted of *Helene Lecar*, chair, with *Polly Amrein*, *Charlotte Lichterman*, *Thomas Mayer*, and *Marsha Skinner* as members.

Annual Meeting - June 1, 2000

The many members who attended this year's annual meeting enjoyed not just one, but three guest speakers - Albany's City Administrator Daren Fields, Berkeley's Deputy City Manager Weldon Rucker, and Emeryville's City Manager John Flores. We also enjoyed a splendid buffet supper catered by Shai's Delicatessen. Thanks so much to *Louetta Erlin* for making the arrangements and for all the work she did in setting up the room. She had a few volunteers to help, but she took responsibility for getting it all together and did a great job. She also took the leftovers to the homeless shelter in downtown Berkeley, where her efforts were much appreciated.

THANKS TO ALL who helped make this a very successful Program year!!

-*Jean Safir*, Program VP

Environmental Concerns

A documentary about successful urban design and municipal programs in the city of Curitiba, Brazil, was the focus of the April 10 Environmental Concerns meeting. Tim Alley from the UC Berkeley school of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design was on hand to discuss his 45-minute video, *Ecological City: A Shared Course*, which addresses Curitiba's centralized urban planning, transportation, environmental programs and social programs.

As designated in its 1965 master plan, the city of 1.6 million people centralized a research and planning institute for architects landscape architects, transportation planners and administrators. The plan contained growth by a green belt of parks but it also delineated defined linear corridors of development, called structural axis, radiating from the downtown along which are high-rise apartments. Residents have a ready access to a well-run system of public transportation which is given center lane priority. A clear line of high rise buildings gives a visual border of the axis downtown, which is largely reserved for pedestrian traffic and activities.

Today two-thirds of Curitiba's citizens use buses every day; researchers estimate that this saves 27 million automobile trips in the course of the year. Tube stations are efficient and attractive, resulting in a 28% increase in ridership.

In recycling, 90 percent of citizens participate in the United Nations award-winning recycling program (glass, paper, metal and plastic). In polluted outer-city areas where there previously had been no infrastructure for collection, free bags of fruits and vegetables were given in exchange for people's trash, which opened a dialogue with communities about collection and recycling. Education is free and encouraged through the informal University for the Environment located in an old stone quarry and built from recycled telephone polls.

In four years the city's community job training programs have trained over 100,000 people to be part of the job force of Curitiba. Residents can learn techniques to build their own houses in communities set up like medieval villages - people work on the bottom floor and live on the top.

For video copies of *Ecological City, A Shared Course*, or of the 4th International Ecocity Conference held in Curitiba in April, 2000, contact: urbaneyes, 510-548-6709, www.urbaneyes.org.

-*Gail Schickele*



Berkeley Council and Manager Interviews

Over the course of the past several months we interviewed most members of Berkeley's City Council and the City Manager about three of the League's concerns, asking them to evaluate the new two-year budget, the number of commissions, and the General Plan process.

Most felt that the two-year budget was an improvement, some suggesting that five years would be even better. Some suggested that the longer term budget had given them more space to consider constituents' requests, but most felt that spurious political demands on the budget were being injected much as before. Council members had been asked to name their three priorities, and with this in hand the City Manager would have been able to hold their feet to the fire. But it was doubtful that they had all understood this priority-setting process, and some just added items they had not previously mentioned. One suggested that Council should try to fully understand a department's budget, so that they could make better policy, rather than spending time on small items. And there were complaints that minor projects get funded from the General Fund, leaving major needs for infrastructure, such as sewers, with which few can argue, for bond measures. The City Manager explained that a new approach called the Integrative Budget has begun to be used by the Budget Director. It will keep rolling over a five year projection of expenditures and income while dealing with a two- year budget.

On commissions, there was almost complete agreement that there are too many, but that even combining some would arouse too much of an uproar from constituents. (One member felt that commissions were less of a problem than the increasing number of Council sub-committees.) And, at the same time, two new commissions were authorized, one on Early Childhood Education, with the rationale of keeping the issue alive, and the other on University Relations, in order not to overburden the Planning Commission. Coordination, staffing, and cost of these extra bodies concerned some. They said that commissioners need training, that slots are hard to fill, and that committed commissioners often feel underappreciated. But, it looks like not only are Berkeley's 42 commissions with us for a while, but also there may be more to come.

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Welcome Karen; Goodbye Linda

Karen Carlson-Olson has accepted the job of LWVBAE Office Administrative Assistant beginning this summer. Karen has been a member of our local League for more than 5 years. She served on our Board of Directors for two years, as Albany representative and Albany Education representative. In addition to various other civic positions and employment experience, she was employed last year as Student Poll Worker Director for the Alameda County Registrar of Voters, training high school students to work at the polls for the elections.

Linda Carothers, who has worked in the LWVBAE Office as our Administrative Assistant for two and a half years, will be leaving us at the end of June. Linda was very helpful to many Leaguers and League committees. We'll miss her, bid her a fond farewell, and wish her much pleasure and success in her new endeavors.

-*Ginette Polak*, 1999/2000 Administrative VP



Interviews (continued)

As for the General Plan, Council members came up with different observations. One felt nothing can be accomplished unless we first decide how large a population we want. Another, that the University has to be acknowledged and worked with, even though it takes up city resources while taking property off its tax roles. Another was upset with the Planning Commission's "contemptuous" treatment of citizens at some of the workshops. There was general agreement that the extended time line was necessary for finishing the project. The City Manager expects the Council to receive the final draft next January.

-*Lois Brubeck*, Action VP

Calendar

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

July

12	Wed.	9 am-noon	Board Planning Meeting	Albany Library, Edith Stone Room	(Price)
14	Fri.	1-3 pm	Berkeley General Plan Analysis	LWVBAE Office	(Brubeck)
19	Wed.	9 am-noon	Action Committee	LWVBAE Office	(Brubeck)

August

2	Wed.	9 am-noon	Board Meeting	Albany Library, Edith Stone Room	(Price)
9	Wed.	9 am-noon	Executive Committee	LWVBAE Office	(Price)
11	Fri.		- Deadline for September VOTER -		(Hawley)
14	Mon.	10 am	- LWVBAE Office Reopens -	(Hinshaw)	
16	Wed.	9 am-noon	Action Committee	LWVBAE Office	(Brubeck)
17	Thur.	Noon-2 pm	Berkeley Integrative Budget Seminar		
			City Manager's Office (bring bag lunch)		(Price)
24	Thurs.	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Second Annual Community Luncheon Fund-Raiser		
			Holiday Inn on the Emeryville Waterfront	(K. Nelson)	
30	Wed.	9 am-noon	Executive Committee	LWVBAE Office	(Price)

September

4	Mon.		Labor Day	- LWVBAE Office Closed -	(Hinshaw)
6	Wed.	9 am-noon	Board Meeting	Albany Library, Edith Stone Room	(Price)
14	Thurs.	Noon-2 pm	Speaker Series	Albany Library, Edith Stone Room	(Safir)
20	Wed.	9 am-noon	Action Committee		(Brubeck)
28	Thurs.	5:30-9 pm	FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING		
			Northbrae Community Church		(Price)

