



The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

President: Sherry Smith

March 2006

Editors: Chapman, Smith & Brandes

LWVBAE STUDY: CIVICS EDUCATION IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS COME TO A MARCH CONSENSUS UNIT TO LEARN OUR RESULTS CONTRIBUTE YOUR PERSPECTIVE AND UNDERSTANDING

Tuesday, March 14, 12 noon to 2 p.m., Albany Library, 1247 Marin Avenue

Refreshment and drinks will be provided or bring a bag lunch

OR Wednesday, March 15, 7 to 9 p.m., LWVBAE Office

Decaf, tea, fruits and cookies will be provided

Democracy requires constant vigilance by the citizens. Or, to paraphrase Abe Lincoln, if government is not by the people it won't be for the people.

With this truth in mind, the dedicated, concerned Leaguers from our Civics Education Committee undertook to study the civics offerings at public schools in Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville. We wanted to know: Will the instruction provided to students in our public schools prepare them to be active, informed citizens – the kind who will pick up the torch, maintain vigilance, and keep democracy alive?

To this end, the study committee read the California Department of Education Standards for Social Studies. This document lists multiple civics standards for each grade – kindergarten through 12th. We interviewed the superintendents of the Berkeley, Albany and Emery unified school districts. We interviewed principals in each district, from all grade levels and most schools. We interviewed, or left questionnaires for, teachers in 1st, 3rd, 5th, 8th, and 12th grades. This gave us a representative sample of teachers, including those in the grades where civics content is emphasized. We delivered questionnaires for all 8th and 12th grade students, so that they could tell us what they have actually learned. And they spoke. 1,019 student questionnaires were returned!

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|--------|---|
| p. 2 | Volunteers Needed |
| p. 3 | Sunshine Week Forum
Environmental Concerns |
| p. 4 | President's Column |
| p. 5 | Board Briefs
Donations |
| p. 6-7 | Financial Report |
| p. 8 | Calendar |



(continued on page 2)

(Civics Study continued from page 1)

Good things are happening. Some schools in the Albany and Emery districts require their students to complete community service projects. All three districts partner with LWVBAE to conduct mock elections – an activity shown by our student survey to be quite popular. Fourth grade classes organize trips to Sacramento. Berkeley and Albany schools sponsor trips to Washington, DC. Many teachers invite their cities' mayors to visit or assign their classes to attend city council meetings. And this is only a partial list.

But, the committee found many things that need to be done. For instance, there is no required curriculum that includes basic civics knowledge from the State Standards other than at 12th grade; and even if there were, there is no procedure for evaluation by principals of their teachers, or by the districts of their schools, to determine if basic civics knowledge is being effectively taught in any grade.

All three districts recognize these problems and the need for improvement; but they face considerable obstacles that prevent them from making much-needed change. The most serious is the pressure to raise reading and math test scores. This pressure keeps administrators and teachers in many of our schools from thinking about anything else. Failing to raise these scores could lead to school takeovers by the State, or loss of Federal funds. Social studies, science, art and all enrichment programs are forced to take a back seat.

Such big problems will be corrected only with considerable effort; but we found that educators know their jobs, care about preparing the next generation, and still believe in the public school system. However, they need all the help and encouragement they can get. At the very least, we hope to be a part of that endeavor.

Please attend either of our March unit meetings. There you'll learn more about what we have discovered. Sharing your insights and concerns will help us develop a consensus on

what changes are most needed, and what we as a League can do to support our schools and teachers. Help us identify how we can best use our energies to improve local civics education.

As a favorite bumper sticker says, "*Democracy is not a spectator sport.*" Come. Participate.

Jinky Gardner & Cathy Lynch
Co-chairs, Civics Ed Study Committee

P.S. For anyone who wants to read our complete study report before the consensus units, we hope to have it available at the League office, and on the League's website by the time you receive this VOTER.



NEEDED: TWO OR THREE LEAGUE MEMBERS AT KING MIDDLE SCHOOL ON SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1:30-3:30

Can you spare two hours to help usher parents through a workshop on preparing their kids for education beyond high school? Our Hewlett Foundation mini-grant has already brought Vista community college students into 8th-grade classes at King to talk about college. The meeting for parents will include speakers from both Berkeley High and Vista (soon to be Berkeley City College), who will talk about various kinds of student support and counseling that are available. Parents will have a chance to meet in small groups to talk about strategies for keeping their kids focused on school work, ways to pay for college, and the many career opportunity programs offered by the Peralta College District. B-TV cable will be filming the parents' meeting to make the information available to all our middle schools.

If you have the time, please call *Helene Lecar* as soon as possible: 549-9719.



**ATTORNEY GENERAL BILL LOCKYER
WILL SPEAK MARCH 17, AT LEAGUE'S
"SUNSHINE WEEK" FORUM**

State Attorney General Bill Lockyer will be the keynote speaker at a "Sunshine Week" forum on transparency in government and a citizen's right to know.

The forum will be held on **Friday, March 17, at the San Lorenzo Village Community Hall, 377 Paseo Grande, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The LWV Alameda County Council, comprising the seven Leagues in Alameda County, was one of only 14 Leagues in the nation to receive funding from the LWVUS Education Fund for putting on an event to focus on the Brown Act, the California Public Records Act, and the Freedom of Information Act. Each of these laws was enacted to assure the public's access to information and processes within governmental offices and agencies.

Elected and appointed officials will be invited to attend this public forum, as well as city clerks and staff members who work with boards and commissions.

The first session of the day will provide an overview of the various "open government" laws, describing what citizens can reasonably expect of officials and what are some of the problems with compliance.

The second session will address how boards and commissions can conduct "sensitive" business and still meet the transparency requirements of the Brown Act and other "sunshine" laws.

Lockyer will speak at the luncheon and answer questions.

Other speakers and panelists confirmed for the program include Manuela Albuquerque, Berkeley City Attorney, and Sherry Kelly, former Berkeley City Clerk. For more information and/or to RSVP, contact Sherry Smith at js1589@berkeley.edu or call her at 548-1769.

Sherry Smith, President

Community Choice Aggregation for Berkeley: What is it? Any pitfalls?

On Monday, March 13, 2006, 7:30-9:30, the Environmental Concerns Committee will feature *Jane Bergen*, current chair of the **Bay Area Monitor** (the LWV regional issues newsletter) speaking about the City of Berkeley's exploration of Community Choice Aggregation, whereby local governments band together to get into the electricity business by developing their own suppliers.

This method offers opportunities to implement local policies promoting renewable and alternative energy that might be greater than the statewide goals. PG&E's transmission lines would still be used. The choice of which provider, PG&E or the City, would be up to the individual consumer. What are the issues and the pitfalls for Berkeley? Jane will explain this energy alternative to us and put it in a broader context. As a member of the city's Energy Commission as well as the LWVC study committee that prepared the study guide for the statewide units on league energy policy, Jane is in a unique position to answer our questions.

The meeting will be at the home of Horst Bansner, 1340 Arch Street (at Rose St.).

Carol Stone, Co-Chair,
Environmental Concerns Committee

NEW MEMBERS

Our warmest welcome to our newest members:

<i>Jane Grant Kerr</i>	<i>W.Z. Lidicker</i>
<i>Sally A. Outis</i>	<i>Gail Spalaver</i>
<i>Vernon Satcher</i>	<i>Thomas Trippe</i>

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This month, I'm turning over my column to a guest, Will Travis, who is Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. He presented this keynote address at the Bay Area League's "State of the Bay" Symposium on January 27. The group was inspired by Mr. Travis' remarks, and I thought the best use of my column would be to share his thoughts with you. (Due to space limitations, what follows is the first half of Mr. Travis' remarks. In our next VOTER, we will print the conclusion.) *Sherry Smith, President*

Why The Bay Matters

I've been asked to explain why San Francisco Bay matters. Even though a lot of work has gone into making a scientific case for why the Bay matters as an environmental resource, it turns out that's hard to do. We don't draw the water we drink from the Bay. Except for herring, there aren't enough fish left in the Bay to support a commercial fishery. The water isn't warm enough to swim in on a regular basis. And the ships that ply the Bay can do so whether the water is clean or dirty. Wetlands are wonderful, but we've already destroyed most of what we had, and global warming may flood what's left along with those we're restoring.

Together, the Bay and Delta make up the largest estuary on the west coast of the American continent. A regular inflow of fresh water is essential to the health of any estuary. But the lion's share of the water that nature would like to put into the Bay ends up irrigating cotton in the Central Valley and filling swimming pools in Southern California. Epic political battles continue to be waged over who gets how much water in California. It appears unlikely that the Bay will emerge victorious in this water war any time soon.

The Bay is also the most urbanized estuary in the United States. Some seven million people live in our region—all of them uphill from the Bay. Gravity happens, so much of what flows off our roads, parking lots, farms and lawns becomes a witch's brew which finds its way to the Bay where it joins the so-called "legacy contaminants" buried under the Bay mud.

Clearly, the abuse that has been bestowed upon the Bay adds urgency to the demand that we protect what remains of this vast estuarine system

and that we redouble our efforts to take advantage of every opportunity we can find to enhance and restore the Bay's resources. But, tragically, we have to admit that the primary environmental value of the Bay is what it once was and what it can become in the future—not what it is now.

So maybe it's best not to look to environmental science for an explanation of why the Bay is important. That may not be as big a problem as it might seem because science wasn't the driving force for protecting the Bay. Sylvia McLaughlin, one of the founders of Save the Bay, [and a member of LWVBAE] once said, "We didn't save the Bay to improve water quality or protect wetlands. We saved it because we had never seen anything so beautiful." In short, the Bay was saved because it's pretty.

At first that may sound trivial. After all, beauty is ephemeral. It has no price. But, in fact, the Bay's beauty does have value. A house with a view of the Bay costs more than one without a Bay view. You pay a premium price for a hotel room facing the Bay. People will spend more for a mediocre dinner in a restaurant overlooking the Bay than for a sensational meal in a restaurant that's not on the waterfront.

A beautiful Bay is, indeed, an economic asset. In fact, many believe that the decision to save the Bay in 1965 laid the foundation for the economic prosperity our region has enjoyed over the past four decades. The Bay Area depends on bright, well-educated, innovative workers to make our knowledge-based economy hum. In competing with other regions for these workers our employers don't pay appreciably higher salaries even though their workers face outrageous housing costs, have to endure terrible traffic congestion and have to tolerate so-so public schools. Yet the workers continue to move here and stay here. Why? Because the Bay Area is a terrific place to live. We enjoy a sensational quality of life, a lot of which comes from the abundant, beautiful and healthy natural resources, like the Bay.

The Bay provides many other economic benefits. It is the highway for the new ferries that are lacing our waterfront communities together. The Bay is essential to our flourishing maritime industry. The Bay is the equivalent of a national park in our front yard where we can sail, swim, fish, kayak and play. And while not all the tourists who come to the City by the Bay leave their hearts in San Francisco, they do leave a lot of their money here.

BOARD BRIEFS

NOVEMBER 2005 – JANUARY 2006

NOVEMBER

Measure A – Health Care – Member *Ursula Rolfe*, who monitors health matters for the Board, reported that, as required by the Measure, an 18-member oversight committee has now been established, including two members who represent the League. As a reminder, Measure A was passed in 2004 and is an Alameda County tax to preserve essential health care to the poor and the uninsured and county hospitals and clinics.

Program – V.P. *Jo Ann Price* reported that the Fall General Meeting was deemed a success on all fronts. Sixty members attended.

Election Services – V.P. *Jinky Gardner* announced that prior to the November elections, pros and cons presentations were made at approximately 12 venues.

Action – President *Sherry Smith* suggested that Action Committee meetings in November and December be held during the day in an attempt to attract a larger attendance.

DECEMBER

Program – V.P. *Jo Ann Price* reminded members of the January 19 Energy Study “Go-See” Tour of the Lawrence Berkeley laboratory.

Action – President *Sherry Smith* reported that the November Action Committee meeting, held in the afternoon, was no better attended than the evening meetings. Treasurer *Luanne Rogers* suggested that December’s meeting be cancelled. *Smith* agreed to the suggestion.

Outreach and Development – President *Smith* circulated a draft of the annual fundraising letter which will be mailed on December 16.

Administration – V.P. *Diane Akers* reported that *Ruthann Taylor’s* duties as Nominating Committee Chair will require that she not continue as office volunteer coordinator. *Jane Barrett* has agreed to take over the task.

Miscellaneous – Hurricane Katrina: V.P. *Price* offered to write letters of support to the Louisiana State League and the League in New Orleans, along with a letter to our state League requesting an active effort to ascertain if any Louisiana refugees are in California in order that we may offer assistance.

JANUARY

Treasurer *Luanne Rogers* circulated data on the current financial position, and stated that the budget is in good shape.

Program – V.P. *Jo Ann Price* announced when and where the Energy Study Units are to be held. Sites include the homes of *Fran Packard* and *Sylvia McLaughlin*.

Civics Education Study – V.P. *Jinky Gardner* said that Unit meetings would be held in March.

Action – President *Smith* suggested, and the Board agreed, that with the Energy Study tour of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory scheduled for January 19, the January Action Committee meeting be postponed.

Clean Money: *Smith* encouraged members to attend upcoming ‘Clean Money’ meetings.

Outreach and Development – Measure A: Treasurer *Rogers* expressed concern that of the 18 members appointed to the Measure A (Health Care in Alameda County) Oversight Committee, all are Caucasian and only two are female, one of whom has resigned in protest. *Smith* suggested that the issue be raised at the February 4 meeting of the Alameda County Council of Leagues.

Membership – Co-Chair *Lim* reported that there are 25 delinquent members dating from June 2005. Members volunteered to call and prod renewal of those delinquent members they knew.

Miscellaneous – A resolution was approved to contribute \$800 to the support of Smart Voter.

Angharad Jones, Secretary

JANUARY DONATIONS

TO THE GENERAL FUND

<i>Jane Bergen</i>	<i>Virginia Blackledge</i>
<i>Aida Brenneis</i>	<i>Martha Chase</i>
<i>Angharad Jones</i>	<i>Patricia Kuhl</i>
<i>Sylvia McLaughlin</i>	<i>Alice Philipson</i>
<i>Roselyn Rosenfeld</i>	<i>Sherry Smith</i>
<i>Mary Wallmann</i>	

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION TRIBUTE FUND

<i>Ruthann Taylor</i>	In memory of Anne Wallach
<i>Elizabeth Warrick</i>	In memory of Harriet Nathan

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

<i>Diane Akers</i>	<i>Jane Bergen</i>
<i>Rachel Brodie</i>	<i>Anne Good</i>
<i>Helen Grossman</i>	<i>Elizabeth Cannon Hall</i>
<i>Penelope Hanan-Dahman</i>	<i>Miriam Hawley</i>
<i>Ann-Marie Hogan</i>	<i>Shirley Issel</i>
<i>Marie Lagarde</i>	<i>Elizabeth Lichtenberg</i>
<i>Sherry Smith</i>	<i>Mary Wallmann</i>
<i>Paul Warner</i>	<i>Pat Welch</i>
<i>Carla Woodworth</i>	

Lenora Young, Donations Secretary

**FINANCIAL REPORT TO MEMBERS
BALANCE SHEET
CASH BASIS**

	June 30, 2004	June 30, 2005	Net Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
Union Bank checking	19,924.64	19,108.08	(816.56)
Union Bank Money Market	10,355.12	10,455.05	99.93
Fidelity Money Market	1,766.46	1,791.90	25.44
Total Checking/Savings	32,046.22	31,355.03	(691.19)
Other Current Assets			
Fidelity Balance Fund	41,162.78	44,331.06	3,168.28
Fidelity Intl. Growth Fund	27,360.12	31,054.93	3,694.81
Fidelity Fund	23,159.95	23,982.70	822.75
Total Other Current Assets	91,682.85	99,368.69	7,685.84
Total Current Assets	123,729.07	130,723.72	6,994.65
Other Assets			
Post Office Deposit	110.00	110.00	0.00
Net Equipment	691.30	691.30	0.00
Rent Deposit	650.00	650.00	0.00
Total Other Assets	1,451.30	1,451.30	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	125,180.37	132,175.02	6,994.65
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Equity			
Opening Bal Equity	110,723.34	110,723.34	0.00
Retained Earnings	-3,213.32	14,457.03	17,670.35
Net Income	17,670.35	6,994.65	(10,675.70)
Total Equity	125,180.37	132,175.02	6,994.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	125,180.37	132,175.02	6,994.65

Luanne Rogers, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT TO MEMBERS OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES

	7-1-03 thru 6-30-04	7-1-04 thru 6-30-05	Net Change
Ordinary Income			
Dues	17,181.00	18,711.00	1,530.00
Contributions	8,598.02	7,693.00	(905.02)
LWVB Foundation	4,502.61	6,077.45	1,574.84
Contract Services	3,369.88	4,147.00	777.12
Scrip - fundraising	4,451.24	2,882.22	(1,569.02)
Community Lunch	13,126.16	3,562.00	(9,564.16)
Dividends - Money Market	41.07	125.37	84.30
Product Sales - Fundraising	258.25	135.50	(122.75)
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	51,528.23	43,333.54	(8,194.69)
Expenses			
Action	1,234.73	184.88	(1,049.85)
Program	1,936.20	349.85	(1,586.35)
Per Member Payments to U.S., State and Bay Area	11,817.64	14,591.49	2,773.85
Conventions	(237.92)	2,534.55	2,772.47
Election & Other Community Services	1,225.83	2,079.13	853.30
Uncategorized		537.42	537.42
Administration			
Board	98.00		(98.00)
Office Rent	9,720.00	9,800.00	80.00
Salary & Fringes & Taxes	6,026.66	7,259.38	1,232.72
Supplies, Copies, Postage	2,159.84	2,970.58	810.74
Phone, FAX, Internet	2,022.52	1,970.99	(51.53)
Insurance	917.84	219.00	(698.84)
Publications, Subscriptions	157.00	344.30	187.30
Other Taxes	55.61	112.88	57.27
Equip. Maint. & Depreciation	349.46		(349.46)
Total Administration	21,506.93	22,677.13	1,170.20
Member Services and Publications			
Voter Newsletter	3,203.94	4,231.65	1,027.71
Other Pubs. (annual meeting kit)		261.12	261.12
Total Member Services and Publications	3,203.94	4,492.77	1,288.83
Development & Community Outreach			
Community Lunch	7,674.52	1,839.08	(5,835.44)
Contract Services (ASUC, etc.)		6.00	6.00
Finance Drive	606.00	410.06	(195.94)
Membership	319.65	293.87	(25.78)
Prod. Sales, KYT, & Special Events	69.73	43.50	(26.23)
Other		(15.00)	(15.00)
Total Development Expenses	8,669.90	2,577.51	(6,092.39)
TOTAL EXPENSES	49,357.25	50,024.73	667.48
NET ORDINARY INCOME (LOSS)	2,170.98	(6,691.19)	(8,862.17)
Other Income			
Dividends declared on investments	1,023.18	1,289.11	1,289.11
Gain (loss) on investments	14,776.19	6,396.73	6,396.73
Fund Transfer Income		6,000.00	6,000.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	15,499.37	13,685.84	(1,813.53)
NET INCOME (LOSS)	17,670.35	6,994.65	(10,675.70)

The decline in 2004-05 ordinary income is due primarily to the fact that we moved the Community Luncheon from April to August. Thus the only Community Luncheon income recorded in 2004-05 came from early reservations and contributions.

Luanne Rogers, Treasurer



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
1414 University Ave., Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Berkeley, CA
Permit No. 29



IT'S EASY TO JOIN
The LEAGUE of
WOMEN VOTERS

Just fill in the blanks below, clip this coupon and mail it with your check for \$58 Annual Dues made out to:

LWVBAE

1414 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE D
BERKELEY, CA 94702-1509

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____ Eve: _____

FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels:
LWVBAE, Bay Area, State and National.
Dues and contributions
to the League are not tax deductible.
Contributions to the LWVB Foundation
are deductible, to extent allowed by law.

CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated

MARCH

- 1 Wed. 7-9 pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 3 Fri. noon Deadline for April VOTER *B. Chapman, 527-0827*
- 13 Mon. 7:30-9:30 Environmental Concerns-"Community Choice Aggregation"--home of Horst Bansner
1340 Arch Street *C. Stone, 549-0959*
- 14 Tues. noon-2 Civics Education Study Unit
Albany Public Library
1247 Marin Avenue *J. Gardner, 548-5292*
- 15 Wed. 7-9 pm Civics Education Study Unit
LWVBAE Office *J. Gardner, 548-5292*
- 17 Fri. 9am-2pm Sunshine Week Forum
San Lorenzo Village Community Hall
377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo *S. Smith, 548-1769*

APRIL

- 5 Wed. 7-9 pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 7 Fri. noon Deadline for May/June VOTER *B. Chapman, 527-0827*
- 10 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm Environmental Concerns *C. Stone, 549-0959*

MAY

- 3 Wed. 7-9 pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 8 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm Environmental Concerns *C. Stone, 549-0959*
- 13 Sat. Bay Area League Convention - Save the Day! - details TBA
- 17 Wed. 5:30-8:30 LWVBAE Annual Meeting *J. Price, 548-5206*
Northbrae Community Church

JUNE

- 10-13 LWV of the United States Convention - Minneapolis, Minnesota