



The Voter

“ . . . to promote informed citizen participation in government.”

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March 2011

Conversation: Our Local League Program Planning

Conversations at the League on March 1, 2011 will be on Program Planning for our LWVBAE League.

What do you want to see on the agenda for the League, for the coming year?

At the next League Conversation, we will be discussing the issues on which you believe LWVBAE should focus talent, money, and reputation.

When: Tuesday, March 1, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

Where: Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room
1247 Marin Avenue (at Masonic), Albany

This Conversation follows the highly engrossing one we had on February 1, where we discussed the State League positions and our recommendations for areas of emphasis and concern, to help guide the will of the State Convention (May 13-15 in Ventura) to set priorities from both a policy and a budgetary standpoint. The results of the February 1 Conversation are reported on page 4 in this issue of the VOTER.

Our own LWVBAE Annual Meeting will be held the evening of Thursday, May 26 (mark your calendars!), and our March 1 Program Planning conversation will help our local Board prepare for that meeting.

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“Open Government” and “Sunshine” Ordinances: Similar Goals, Different Approaches

Once upon a time....

in the early part of the first decade of the current Millennium, the idea of ensuring a more visible city government, along with better access to public information and enhanced opportunities for public input to the governing process, was begun in Berkeley.

Fortunately for Berkeley residents, the civic attitude leaned strongly towards making governmental process more open and accessible, and with the cooperation and leadership of then-City Clerk Sherry Kelley, modern technologies have been embraced and public meeting Agendas and civic documents were made available electronically and in printed copies. “Open records” facilitators were designated in the various city offices and departments, to assist citizens in their efforts to obtain documents and other public records to which they were entitled.

But all was not as smooth and quick and complete as desired, and the City Council asked the City Attorney and city staff to develop an ordinance that would fill in the gaps and enhance accessibility.

But lo, politics and foot-dragging ensued as drafts were submitted, sent back, and the subject lay fallow for some years, surfacing occasionally in fits and starts.

Finally, a couple of years ago, a group of citizens came together to begin drafting a totally new approach. Representatives from LWVBAE sat in on the drafting process and our contributions helped moderate an approach that was originally even more extensive in its reach than the final version adopted by the citizens’ group. That final version which was circulated as a petition for an initiative was comprehensive in its coverage and 32 pages long. (See <http://www.berkeleysunshine.org/BerkeleySunshineOrdinance.pdf>).

When this final draft was brought to the LWVBAE Board, the Board decided not to assist in the gathering of signa-

tures on the initiative's petitions. Subsequently, the petitioners in fact did collect enough signatures for the proposed ordinance to qualify for placement on the November 2012 Berkeley City ballot.

Our League, like so many others, has supported the concept of open meetings and transparent government process. (See our local position: <http://lwvbae.org/position.pdf> and the national League position: http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Citizen_s_Right_to_Know_Citizen_Participation&CONTENTID=8623&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm)

But the LWVBAE Board, after a thorough discussion, felt that the "Citizens Sunshine Ordinance" initiative proposal went too far.

The proposed initiative would establish a new Sunshine Ordinance Review Commission (bringing the total number of Commissions in Berkeley to 45), complete with designated city staff and specific requirements of the City Attorney and, in cases of conflict of interest, the hiring of outside counsel chosen by the Commission. The proposed ordinance also creates additional duties for city staff, more frequent meetings of the City Council, and more extensive arrangements for public comment.

When the proposal was brought before the Council, they referred it to city staff for comment, especially on the fiscal implications. A task force of city staff was formed under the direction of Deputy City Manager Christine Daniel, and they came back with a summary of costs: \$35,000 for one-time start-up costs, and ongoing costs of approximately \$2 million annually (out of the General Fund, since the ordinance includes no revenue source to fund it). The City's Web site has the details of this cost estimate under "Open Government Ordinance", when you search the site using those words.

The Council then asked the City Manager to prepare a draft of an alternative Open Government Ordinance that would specifically address improving the Agenda process (getting "packet" information out earlier for both the Council and the public); streamlining the efficiency of meetings; allowing easier access to public records; and providing for oversight of City staff compliance.

In early January, Ms. Daniel came back with a draft Open Government Ordinance that takes important steps to achieve those goals, with the benefit of being easy to understand, feasible to implement quickly, and at apparent low cost. Especially intriguing is the idea of giving to the City's Fair Campaign Practices Commission the authority to hear and attempt to resolve complaints; to make recommendations to the Council regarding further "opening" of government; and to receive an annual report from the City Manager about ordinance compliance, a feature that has

been missing up to now. The FCPC met and agreed to favor the adoption of the proposed Ordinance and assume that additional responsibility

You may see the proposal for yourself by either going to the City's Website and searching for "Open Government Ordinance", or clicking on "City Council", then the Agenda for their January 25 meeting, Item #13.

At that Council meeting, I said during public comment that the League supports the ideas contained in the proposed Open Government ordinance which was then before them for consideration, and that we would be pleased to assist in any way we are asked, to help make it effective.

Further "fine tuning" is now going on, and at this VOTER issue's early February deadline the Council had not yet voted on the Ordinance. We will continue to follow its progress and report to you in future issues.

Sherry Smith
President

Conversation Continued from page 1

To help you prepare for this March 1 meeting, you can go to: <http://lwvbae.org/position.pdf> for our own LWVBAE local positions.

At last year's local program planning meeting, the following was recommended to the Board (which the Board subsequently recommended to the Annual Meeting of the membership):

- a. Retain all current positions
- b. Begin no new local study
- c. Emphasize the following for education and action: Climate Change; Health Care; Civics Education; and Ranked Choice Voting
- d. Establish two ad hoc committees: Berkeley Downtown Area Plan; and Berkeley Sunshine Ordinance

Please join us. The more members who attend the planning discussion, the more representative our recommendations will be.

You may bring your lunch, but only water is permitted as a beverage at the Library.

Sherry Smith
President

Redistricting Update

Angelo Ancheta was chosen from six other Democratic candidates to replace a member who resigned January 14. Ancheta, a San Francisco resident, is a professor at Santa Clara University School of Law. He has taught classes and conducted research in constitutional rights, voting rights and election law. Ancheta will fill a seat left vacant by Democrat Elaine Kuo of Mountain View.

New LWVUS Study: The Role of the Federal Government in Education

What are we studying? Last June, The LWVUS convention in Atlanta adopted as a new study an exploration of the federal government's involvement in education. Historically, educational policy and financing has been left to the individual states to determine. Over time, however, numerous federal legislative and regulatory initiatives have established themselves, especially around issues of equal educational opportunity under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. Just two examples: Title I provides federal funds for schools that serve poor children; Title IX requires colleges receiving federal money to provide equal athletic opportunities for women.

The law, which has been reauthorized about every 5 years, was last renewed in 2002 and dubbed, by the Bush administration, No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Unlike previous renewals, this legislation required states to report not only their overall high school graduation rates, but to disaggregate those rates by the ethnic, racial and economic composition of the graduating class. It was the first time the "Achievement Gap" in disparate graduation rates could be documented nationwide. The law also set accountability requirements for states to achieve over time. By 2014, all graduates were to be "proficient" in core subjects, to be taught only by "highly qualified" teachers.

The big catch was that states could determine for themselves what "proficient" actually meant. Similarly, "highly qualified" was unspecified and is still being debated in the courts. Schools which failed to meet their projected Annual Yearly Progress on student exams were subject to a range of sanctions up to and including school closings and staff firings.

This extension of the law into areas of educational policy generated controversy from the beginning. Although money was allocated to help pay for the new requirements, it was insufficient. Many accused NCLB of imposing unfunded mandates on the states. The legislation is again up for renewal, and once again, controversy swirls around what is and is not appropriate for the federal government to require.

League Process: The League's national study committee has a number of sub-groups addressing three major areas—Equity, including ESEA funding, Core Standards and Assessment, and the historical development of the Federal participation in public education.

The committee hopes to have background materials and consensus questions ready for local Leagues by the end of March/April at the latest, and asks that our members conduct their consensus meetings before November of 2011,

Where Do We Fit In? We'll begin our background study of National's materials and consensus questions as soon as we get them. In the meantime, if you'd like to see what's at stake, try 1. Diane Ravitch's [Death and Life of the Great American School System](#) 2. Linda Darling Hammond's [The Flat World and Education](#).

Our Board has tentatively planned a consensus meeting of the membership for October, 2011. The national study committee will then take the results from Leagues across the country and present their findings to the LWVUS Board by April, 2012 for approval before our next national convention in June of 2012.

Everyone is invited to be in at the beginning. We have scheduled an organizing meeting for our local LWVBAE committee for Wednesday, March 16, at 3:00 in the League office. If you would like to take part but cannot make the date, call Helene Lecar at 549-9719.

Opening on Alameda County Measure A Oversight Committee

In 2004, voters in Alameda County approved Measure A to ensure essential funding for health care services for indigent, low income, and uninsured county residents. Measure A raised the county sales tax by one-half cent and established a Citizen's Oversight Committee to ensure that funds are spent according to what the voters approved.

The Board of Supervisors established a Citizen's Oversight Committee of 15 members—two of those from the League. One member recently resigned because of health reasons, so there is now an opening. The other position is held by Suzanne Barba from the Eden Area League who was just appointed for a three-year term.

The Measure A Oversight Committee meets on the fourth Friday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the AC Health Care Service Office at 1000 San Leandro Blvd, San Leandro,

Members review the activities of the preceding year of the many providers who receive Measure A funding to ensure the funds are spent according to Measure A requirements. The committee also hears verbal reports from some of the groups funded, and the chair of the committee reports yearly to the Board of Supervisors. The committee also has work assignments in writing the annual report for the Board of Supervisors and the public on how Measure A funds were spent.

The committee has a staff provided by the Health Care Ser-

County Measure A Continued from page 3

vices Agency to assist it in completing its duties.

If you are interested, e-mail Syeda Inamdar, Chair of the LWV Alameda County Council of Leagues which approves and forwards its nomination for the position to the Board of Supervisors for final approval. Anyone interested may attend the meeting as an Observer. For further information about the work of the committee or attending as an Observer, e-mail Suzanne at suzbarba@comcast.net.

To review past reports, go to www.acgov.org/health/

LWVBAE Recommendations to LWVC for Program Planning

Every two years, several months before the biennial League of Women Voters of California convention, all the Leagues in California gather interested local members to discuss their recommendations to LWVC for their program for the coming two years.

We held our State Program Planning meeting on February 1 as part of our monthly "Conversations at the League" series. The results of our meeting, in combination with those of the local Leagues around the state, will inform the State Convention (see box this page) about the grassroots interest in issues, and help guide the will of the convention to set priorities from both a policy and a budgetary standpoint.

Here are the conclusions reached at our LWVBAE gathering, which we will pass along to the State League program planners:

- a. Keep all existing LWVC Positions (see <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/index.html>)
- b. Edit or modify the existing positions in two ways:
 1. Re-write several Natural Resources positions in order to make clear that they do cover concepts which have emerged since the positions were first drafted, and
 2. Simplify and combine as much as possible presentation of the LWVC positions with the LWVUS positions, to make them more accessible to the membership and general public. Local Leagues could adopt and adapt that way of presentation, adding in their own in such a way our members and the public could better understand what all of our positions are and how they interface.
- c. No recommendations for new state studies.
- d. As for issues for education and advocacy, we are recommending that the State League focus on State

and Local Finance; Health Care; Natural Resources; and Education; in that order of emphasis.

If you are personally interested in any of those areas of the concern, let me know and I will pass your name along to State League. LWVC has asked us for names because we are a grassroots organization, and in order to perform these tasks of education and advocacy we need people willing to work on the issues that we suggest. The state League is all of us, and the way things get done at the state level is by volunteers from local Leagues working together.

When we report our conclusions to the State League, we will send along further details about what we mean when we suggest an integration of the presentation of our positions, and the re-writing of several Natural Resources positions.

I want to express my special thanks to all those members who came to the February 1 program planning meeting. It was a lively and informative session, and many useful thoughts and ideas were expressed. I hope that we can have a similar enthusiastic discussion of our local LWVBAE program planning at the March 1 "Conversation". See page 1 for details about the Conversation for March.

Sherry Smith
President

LWVC 65th Convention

When: Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15, 2011

Where: Crowne Plaza Ventura
450 East Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA

In addition to the official business: electing officers, adopting a budget, adopting program (always a heated and lively process), and amending by-laws as needed, there will be multiple caucuses, workshops, speakers, and tours. You may read the full schedule, and link to other aspects of Convention at <http://lwvc.wordpress.com/schedule>

LWVBAE will subsidize Convention costs for 5 delegates up to \$300.00 each; this covers registration and some meals. The special hotel rate for the League is \$109.00 per night; shared with another delegate, and allowing for taxes, it would be about \$60.00 per night. Convention is a great way to make new friends and to get to know other delegates, both from LWVBAE and from other Leagues around the state.

Call the LWVBAE office if you are interested in attending the LWVC 65th Convention 843-8824.

Centennial of Women Voting in California

2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the measure granting women the right to vote in California elections, and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters of California and of Berkeley. From 1911 to 1920, our two organizations were named the California Civic League and the Berkeley Center of the California Civic League.

Throughout this year, we will be publishing pieces to commemorate these milestone events. The article below is one in this series. It is published on the Internet (with photos) at http://foundsf.org/index.php?title=WOMEN_CLAIM_THE_VOTE_IN_CALIFORNIA

WOMEN CLAIM THE VOTE IN CALIFORNIA

Historical Essay

by Mae Silver, 1995, author of *The Sixth Star*

American women gained their right to vote in 1920. But in California, women had already won the right to vote in 1911, nearly a decade earlier.

The 1896 and 1911 suffrage campaigns demonstrated the mature political savvy women had acquired. Both campaigns drew help from suffragists all over America, but the assistance to the 1911 effort was formidable. Women remembered who defeated them in 1896.

Out of all the California counties, two killed the suffrage attempt in 1896--San Francisco and Alameda. The Liquor Dealers League, really the producers, proprietors and patrons of drink, defeated suffrage. Between 1896 and 1906, the movement languished in California as across America. But, after the earthquake in 1906, a suffrage convention of considerable size convened in San Francisco. The fight was on. The strategy would aim hard at the state's small towns and Southern California. Aided by the automobile and telephone, north and south suffragists merged to form an impressive campaign machine. The work was intense and highly individual. Church to church, school to school, club to club, door to door, person to person; all received handbills and newspaper articles about the suffrage movement. Little towns where nobody ever saw a suffragist learned about women's rights and the importance of the right to vote. The College Equal Suffrage League staged unique publicity events, often using their "Blue Liner," a special touring car.

The night before the election, the famed Madame Nordica, in town for ground-breaking for the Panama-Pacific Exposition, unexpectedly appeared in Union Square. She entertained all to give women liberty--the vote. Nordica closed by singing "The Star Spangled Banner" to the cheers of the assembled crowd.

The next day, October 10, 1911, suffragist precinct workers geared for fraud and [chaos] at the ballot boxes in San Francisco and Alameda counties. An impressive corps of ballot box watchers, 1,066 men and women, scrutinized every voting poll in San Francisco. Watchers tallied at least 3,000 fraudulent ballots. The day after the election, City newspapers declared the California women's franchise vote dead. As anticipated, S.F. county voted 35,471 No; 21,912 Yes. Alameda voted 7,818 No; 6,075 Yes. But suffrage workers smiled when the other votes started to roll in. Slowly they came, as they had been sought. The small towns and valleys delivered the victorious votes that returned a majority of 3,587. In 1911, California women joined the franchised women of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Washington. In 1912, Oregon, Kansas and Arizona women won their vote. West coast women claimed their franchise. The potential power of that vote did not go unnoticed.

In those nine Western states resided six and one-half million women voters. That translated into 45 electoral votes. In 1916, Alice Paul, Chair of the Washington, D.C. Committee of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, created the National Women's Party (NWP), a political party with only one agenda--the passage of the Susan B. Anthony 19th Amendment. NWP boasted 50,000 members, and raised three-quarters of a million dollars. Masterly and persistently, Paul executed her resolve, sending NWP members to be the first women in history to picket the White House. Carrie Chapman Catt, head of the National Association, engineered an incredibly complex and effective machine throughout the United States. Paul used "the young are at the gates" confrontational methods while Catt brokered adroitly in rooms dominated by either tea or cigars. Because of both drives, President Woodrow Wilson finally surrendered his support on behalf of the women's suffrage cause.

After Congress passed the proposal on June 4, 1919, each state had to ratify the amendment. Some state legislatures offered continued resistance. This was not the case in California. On Nov. 1, 1919, Governor William D. Stephens called a special session of the legislature to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. Before the vote more than one-hundred members of the state suffrage association hosted a luncheon honoring the entire legislature, the governor and other executives. California ratified the Susan B. Anthony Amendment with little contention.

The hour of the woman had arrived.

Learn more about the organizations behind FoundSF: Shaping San Francisco and the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society. <http://www.shapingsf.org/> and <http://www.sfhistory.org/>

Centennial Websites

A webpage will let you know what LWVC and local Leagues are planning; it's titled **California: 100 Years of Women Voting** and you'll find it at: <http://lwvc.wordpress.com/100-year-celebration-for-california-women>

LWVC has also set up a Facebook page to celebrate the events of 1911 throughout 2011. From your Facebook page search for the group **California: 100 Years of Women Voting**.

Donations January – February

To the LWVBAE General Fund

Jane Bergen

Gordon and Suzanne Chun Design

Alisa Einwohner

Lessly and Henry Field

Mim and Bob Hawley

Charlotte Lichterman

Ruth Maguire

Allie Norton

Jewel Okawachi

Ursula Rolfe

Suzanne Rowley

Meryl Siegal

Linda Swift

To the LWVB Foundation

Robert and Elizabeth Anderson

Robert Arnold

Eleanor Bade

Jane Bergen

David Bradford

Marylyn Coons

Neil Dillon

Anne Good

Charlotte Lichterman

Kjersten Walker and Paul Neidert

Marion Shapiro

Meryl Siegal

Many thanks for remembering our League.

Louetta Erlin
Donations Secretary

Women Vote

Celebrations of the 100th anniversary of women winning the vote are being organized all over the state. At LWVC, Trudy Jarrett, First Vice President, of San Luis Obispo and Jennifer Waggoner, Communications Director, of San Francisco have been busy both organizing and reporting on these activities.

In the "Historical Essay" in this issue, (see page 5) Mae Silver describes the statewide and San Francisco campaigns. In a recent visit to the California State Library Phyllis Gale and other members of the local Centennial Committee found the oral history of Mrs. Hester Harland who gives a very detailed account of how she organized the suffrage campaign of 1911 in Berkeley.

"...we had divided our city of Berkeley into thirty-five districts, appointing a Captain and several lieutenants in each district. To these workers we distributed pamphlets, indicating whether each person interviewed was for, or against, or neutral on the suffrage question. Very soon, naturally, we learned the standing of each would-be voter whom we met. We secured every available hall and meeting place, large and small, and sometimes we were offered rooms in private homes for lectures. This we planned ahead for eight months. At these places we had from our own Berkeley, San Francisco, and from other places far afield, the best and most brilliant speakers we could secure. For the last night of the campaign, we secured the Berkeley High School Auditorium, which was the largest meeting place in town, and this turned out to be a grand rally celebrating our victory when the returns came in."

Mrs. Harland goes on to describe how enthusiastic the young women were, how many visitors streamed into their headquarters to support the campaign and a "spectacular" great parade through the whole town, with public speakers in all four quarters of the town and "a tally-ho filled with musicians and young women carrying banners and legends—all led by long processions of private automobiles filled with men and women who were enthusiastic supporters of our campaign."

Mrs. Harland reports with pride that "Berkeley, where I managed the campaign, gave pro rata the largest result in favor of suffrage, the only one, in fact in all the surrounding regions of the Bay District and Alameda County."

If you have questions, information to give us or want to join the Berkeley committee, please contact our chair, Phyllis Gale of the Berkeley Historical Society, earlyberkeleywomen@gmail.com or Nancy Bickel, nkbickel@lmi.net.

Bay Area League Day 2011 a Rousing Success

LWVBAE members were among some 150 regional League and community members at LWVBA's Bay Area League Day "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Taking It to the Next Level" environmental forum at the Metro Center in downtown Oakland January 29. The program began with a remote call from keynote Dan Reicher, executive director of the new Stayer-Taylor Center for Energy and Finance at Stanford University,

who was in Park City, Utah at a conference on the national energy and climate agenda to inform the new Congress, with EPA administrators and White House officials. Former Director of Climate Change Initiatives at Google and Asst. Secretary of Energy during the Clinton Administration, Reicher addressed the need for the U.S. to keep a competitive edge in renewable energy, the importance of balancing a 'clean energy triangle' of technology, policy and finance, and the need for smart policy at all levels.

Complementing the keynote address was energy guru Art Rosenfeld, co-founder of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, and the University of California's Institute for Energy and the Environment, and California Energy Commissioner from 2000 until 2010, responsible for its Public Interest Energy Research Program while collaborating with the California Public Utilities Commission to oversee California's Energy Efficiency Program. Rosenfeld discussed U.S. and California energy consumption and our state's annual energy savings from efficiency programs and standards. He also discussed his passion: concrete colored roads and white roofs to help curb global warming. His efforts have led California building standards so new roofs and retrofits shall be white with commercial space going white about 5% annually. "The whiter the world as seen by the sun the more sunlight is transferred back to the atmosphere," he explained, noting as glaciers melt, the sun doesn't reflect the light, but rather it is absorbed by the ocean, which leads to more warming, "so anything we can do to make the world whiter is a reprieve on global warming – not a solution, but maybe about a 5% reprieve."

Port of Oakland Director of Environmental Programs and Planning Richard Sinkoff and Port environmental scientist Douglas Herman discussed how their dredging, materials management and deconstruction is part of the sustainability lens that reflects Port purchases, uses, operations and commitment to environmental sustainability that Sinkoff said, "helps our economic foundation and impact on all the life systems that sustain us."

Deputy Director for San Jose's Integrated Waste Management Division Jo Zientek boasted the city's premier suite of recycling programs and commitment to a Zero Waste policy, improved commercial recycling, building regional recycling infrastructure and driving statewide smart environmental policy. San Jose adopted its Green Vision in 2007 to achieve goals by 2022 that includes 25,000 clean tech jobs; to reduce per capita energy use by 50% and achieve 100% renewable electricity to: retrofit 50 million sq.ft. buildings to "green;" divert 100% of waste from landfills to convert waste to energy; ensure public transport runs on alternative fuels; plant 100,000 new trees; and recycle or reuse 100 % of wastewater.

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) recycled water guru, Lori Steere, explained the benefits of recycled water, including that it offsets the need for additional potable fresh water supplies, reduces energy use and therefore less GHG emissions; and reduces discharges to and diversions from ecologically sensitive water bodies. As noted in the Bay Area Monitor (Jan. 2011 Purple Pipes Protect Potable Provisions), Steere said, "The first question is always, 'are you going to make me drink it?' ... I quickly disabuse them of that notion. No, it is not a drinking water supply, but it is safe. It goes through an extensive treatment process that meets regulations and standards set by the State of California to protect people's health. If recycled water gets ingested it has to be pure enough that people won't get sick."

AC Transit's Jaimie Levin discussed alternative fuels including the agency's hydrogen fuel program (SEE Report in *May-June 2010 LWVBAE Voter*) and said that hydro and fuel cells will be part of our energy mix if we're to achieve needed CO₂ reductions for our planet. AC Transit also offers a joint program with UCB Lawrence Hall of Science and science curriculum in schools.

Damien Breen, director of the Strategic Incentives Division for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, discussed the region's electric vehicles program, permitting and charging infrastructure looking to a future of zero emissions vehicles. BAAQMD distributes over \$80 million annually to assist businesses and public agencies to achieve early emissions reductions by voluntarily upgrading their equipment.

Nate Ivy discussed the environmental Service-Learning Waste Reduction Project for secondary schools in Alameda County where students participate in hands-on sustainability projects. He serves on the Alameda County Recycling Board of StopWaste.Org, whose principal program Manager Wendy Sommer also addressed the assembly. She leads the agency's Product Decisions group, which strives for maximum waste reduction by influencing decisions about what products to manufacture or purchase. Sommer established the Green Building in Alameda County program, guidelines that formed the basis of GreenPoint Rated, the residential green rating program endorsed by public agencies and the building industry throughout California. She also managed the construction of StopWaste.Org's \$6.5 million LEED Platinum office building. To cap the day on how we can get involved in reducing our carbon footprint, Sommer introduced Energy Upgrade California, a statewide program where people may upgrade their home with rebates, incentives and money-saving energy improvements, <http://energyupgradecalifornia.org/>

Gail Schickele
Co-Director Environmental Concerns

League Leaders 2009-2010

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages active and informed participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



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Calendar — Berkeley addresses unless otherwise noted

February

23	Wed	1:30-3:00 pm	Climate Change Com, LWVBAE Office	R. Beatus	524-6904
23	Wed	3:00-5:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office	S. Smith	548-1769
24	Thur	7:30-9:00 pm	Civics Edu. Com, LWVBAE Office	J. Gardner	548-5292

March

1	Tues	noon-2:pm	Conversation - local Program Planning (story page 1) Albany Library 1247 Marin Avenue, Albany	G. Polak	841-4546
4	Fri	5:00 pm	Deadline for April <i>Voter</i>	F.Packard	845-3037
14	Mon	7:30-9:00 pm	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
16	Wed	3:00-5:00 pm	LWVUS Education Study	H. Lecar	549-9719
21	Mon	1:30-3:30 pm	Health Care Com, LWVBAE Office	L. Wang	848-5765
23	Wed	1:30-3:00 pm	Climate Change Com, LWVBAE Office	R. Beatus	524-6904
23	Wed	3:00-5:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office	S. Smith	548-1769
24	Thur	7:30 pm	Civics Edu. Com, LWVBAE Office	J. Gardner	548-5292

April

5	Tues	noon-2: pm	Conversation - Climate Change Albany Library 1247 Marin Avenue, Albany	G. Polak	841-4546
10	Mon	7:30-9:00 pm	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
14	Thur	7:30-9:00 pm	Civics Edu. Com, LWVBAE Office	J. Gardner	548-5292
18	Mon	1:30-3:30 pm	Health Care Com, LWVBAE Office	L. Wang	848-5765
27	Wed	3:00-5:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office	S. Smith	548-1769

Save the Date: Thursday, May 26, Annual Meeting