



# The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS  
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

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President: Sherry Smith

Summer 2005

Editors: Chapman & Smith

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**LWVBAE IS CELEBRATING!  
DOUBLE 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!!!  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2005 – 11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.  
*Doubletree Hotel, the Berkeley Marina***

It's not only the League of Women Voters' 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, it's also the 85th anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. How special is that?!! (Can you believe that American women have only been allowed to vote for 85 years?)

We want all Leaguers to be part of this proud occasion. Put it on your calendar NOW: Thursday, August 25, 2005, the eve of the anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1920. The Doubletree Hotel on the Berkeley Marina is the venue, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. General admission is \$65, or for \$85 you'll be designated a SUFFRAGIST. Get your friends together and take a table for ten, or half a table for five. You could come dressed for the occasion as a suffragist. Does

someone you know own a vintage car? That could be fun!

The League is making this an all-out fundraiser by publishing a Souvenir Program with ads from community businesses and well-wishers. If every Leaguer got just one ad from someone you give a lot of business to (real estate agent, lawyer, insurance agent, doctor, dentist, gas station, auto repair, plumber, restaurant, wine shop, etc.), the Program would be quite a success. A business card ad at 1/4 page costs \$125. Half a page is \$300 and a full page costs \$500. We have ad kits with all the information for your prospects. Call the office at 843-8824 to pick one up or if you have any questions. A member of the committee will be happy to explain the details. The deadline for ads is Friday, July 29. Meanwhile, check the insert in this *VOTER* for the speaker and other information. Your invitation will be coming the last of July.

We're going to have a lot of fun around a very meaningful occasion. Don't miss this delightful opportunity to toast the League and women's suffrage!

*Joyce Jackson, Chair, Annual Community Luncheon*

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am so pleased to present this summary of League activities for the past year that have especially impressed me.

But before I get to that, I want to thank you for your kind expressions of concern and affection when you knew of my heart attack. I'm mending well and under the good care of Kaiser, and I now have additional personal interest in the League's push for a single-payer health care system, so that all Californians could be eligible for similar fine care.

Let me enumerate some of the things your Berkeley, Albany & Emeryville League has accomplished this year, with your excellent help.

We were engaged in two major projects this year---the Civics Education Study, headed by *Jinky Gardner* and *Cathy Lynch*; and the City of Berkeley Budget Workshops, which we put together with the able assistance of *Anne Henderson* and the staff of the City Manager.

At the Annual Meeting on May 26, we approved extending the Civics Education Study into the coming League year. I want to tell you how proud I am that our League is taking a leadership position on this important issue that is essential to the development of good citizenship. Several other California Leagues are very interested in what we are doing, and we will have statewide impact in promoting the issue over the next few years.

As for the workshops, we presented three of them at different Senior Centers in Berkeley; and although attendance was not what we hoped it would be, those of us who put them together and participated in them learned a great deal about the city budget process generally and the coming 2005-07 budget in particular. And we provided the opportunity for a spectrum of citizens to come to a better understanding about budget development. Perhaps the best outcome was the solid, cooperative working relationship we enjoyed with City staff. The League continues to be the only civic organization that comes to such projects without partisan bias, with the purpose of bringing sunshine to complexity and better

understanding to the citizens affected by governmental decisions. We are justifiably proud of our good reputation of some 85 years standing, and the City was acknowledging that standing with their complete cooperation with our project.

Then, of course, 2004 was an election year and our voter services went into full swing under the able leadership of *Jinky Gardner* and *Phoebe Watts*. There is nothing so vitalizing for the League as elections, and we distributed record numbers of voter registration forms (thanks to *Lenora Young* and her crew). You will find a summary of our voter service activities elsewhere in this issue of the *VOTER*.

And as part of our voter services we assisted, under the coordination of *Karen Carlson-Olson*, with the mock election at Albany High School, to help get "pre-voters" familiar with election processes.

This coming year, there may be as many as **three** elections if the Governor calls a special election this fall, so stay tuned---this could be our busiest election year yet. But never fear, the League will cope and even thrive---this is our core mission and we are very good at it.

Another "voter service" we've done well over the years is oversight of the student body election at Cal. Since 1979, we have contracted to supervise the election process to help assure a fair election for the Associated Students. Ever since they went electronic several years ago, we have assumed that our services would finally no longer be required. But we are still captured in their By-Laws as the neutral third-party observer, and we continue to have a role, albeit limited. Especially through the good services of our Webmaster and tech guru *Bill Chapman*, we can offer useful advice and provide for alternative provisional paper balloting. We have gone from a \$10,000 contract to one for \$2,000, but our consulting and standby readiness have proven to be of continuing value to the ASUC. Who knows what next year will bring?

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

Our Action Committee has continued to meet monthly under the leadership of *Jean Safir*. Among other actions, including developing and participating in the City Budget Workshops, a letter was written to the Berkeley Mayor and Council stating our position on consolidation and other issues affecting city Commissions and Boards.

Besides our own Civics Education Study, the other study in which we participated was an update of the State League's Education position. *Pat Kuhi* chaired the committee that presented that update, and our League joined others throughout the state in coming to consensus in Unit presentations.

At the regional level, we participated in Bay Area League events, and *Nancy Bickel* was secretary for the Alameda County Council of Leagues of Women Voters, the group of seven Alameda County Leagues that meets bimonthly to discuss and act on issues of county-wide impact. *Jo Ann Price* and I also participate in these meetings, as well as some other members of our League on specific topics. This year, for instance, the ACC launched a study of whether it would be more effective to have the County Board of Education appoint the County Superintendent of Schools rather than have that position an elective one, as it is currently. The ACC also has been closely watching the possibility of the building of urban gambling casinos in the East Bay, and wrote a strong letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs protesting the lack of open process as decisions appeared to be moving along under the radar. The ACC has become increasingly effective over the years, and Nancy will become its Chair this coming year, followed by Jo Ann as the Chair in the year following.

I also want to note the good work of our Environmental Concerns committee. As you know, its long-time coordinator, *Eva Alexis Bansner*, passed away earlier this year, but the group continues under *Carol Stone* and *Gail Schickele*, and they have had some great programs with wonderful speakers. You should check the calendar in the *VOTER* each month for a listing of when and where the meetings are

held. Recent sessions have covered such topics as the environmental aspects of Indian gaming, the California Coastal Commission, energy efficiency, and the Regional Parks system. These are truly stimulating and informative meetings.

Each year, our League loses valued members as they move to other cities or pass away. I wanted to note especially three deaths by which we were lessened this year.

*Ruth Scheer* joined the Berkeley League in the 1930s and served as President and State President in the 1940s. She remained an active and vital person until her passing at the age of 97.

*Peggy Anne Davis* served the League in many capacities, including directing our publicity, hosting Unit meetings, and heading up our ASUC Election oversight with her husband Bill for several years. Peggy Anne served her community in myriad ways, with energy and enthusiasm right up until the end of her life at the age of 83. She was the model League member, helping continue the tradition for all of us.

And of course *Eva Bansner*, a planner by profession whose fervent interest in the urban environment was reflected in her leadership of our own Environmental Concerns Committee, and in the wider region when she served as President of the Bay Area League of Women Voters. The Eva Alexis Bansner Fund for Sustainable Communities has been established by her family and friends within our Education Foundation, in tribute to her work and to carry forward her stewardship.

Well, there it is--a roundup of the latest year in the history of 85 years of the oldest League in California, which remains one of the largest and most active because of the interest and commitment of you, our members.

I look forward with great enthusiasm to working with you during the coming League year, loaded with activities and programs.

Thanks again for a wonderful year.

*Sherry Smith*, President

## BOARD BRIEFS

At its **January** meeting, the Board heard Committee reports including:

- the plan to have LWVBAE moderate community workshops on the City of Berkeley's budget status and proposals;
- information and updates on the IRV (Instant Run-Off Voting), the State Education Study, the Community Luncheon, and the Civics Education Study.

At its **February** meeting, the Board

- Elected *Bill Chapman* to the Board by acclamation;
- Approved the State Education Consensus Report;
- Approved the terms of the new lease agreement with Andronicos.

At its **March** meeting, the Board

- Voted to co-sponsor a fund-raiser for Vista College featuring Danny Glover as speaker;
- Approved the questions, in principle, that will be asked of the newly elected Peralta College District Trustees in the Spring;
- Voted to sponsor a Hewlett-Packard mini-grant to bring college students into Middle Schools to provide information helpful to parents in getting their children to college.

*Jody Bush, Co-Secretary*

### LWVBAE Board Members 2005-06 Elected at Annual Meeting

#### Officers

<i>Sherry Smith</i>	President
<i>Diane Akers</i>	Administration Vice President
<i>Jinky Gardner</i>	Voter Services Vice President
<i>Jo Ann B. Price</i>	Program Vice President
<i>Luanne Rogers</i>	Treasurer
<i>Angharad Jones</i>	Secretary

#### Board Members

*Jody Bush*, Library Liaison; *Bill Chapman*, Communications; *Betty Hicks*, Voter Services Speakers Bureau Chair; *Kristina Lim*, Membership Co-Chair; *Ursula Rolfe*, Health Care; and *Sue Sutton*, Juvenile Justice; *Lea Barker and Jane Brandes*, VOTER Co-Editors

#### Nominating Committee

*Ruthann Taylor, Barbara Nelson, and Eloise Bodine*

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

A budget of nearly \$62,000 for the coming League year was adopted by the members attending the Annual Meeting held May 26, 2005 at the Northbrae Community Church. *Sherry Smith* was elected to serve a second term as President, along with the officers and board members shown in the box to the lower left.

The membership adopted the recommendations of the Board: retention of all current positions; monitoring city budget-making process for compliance with League positions and taking action where appropriate; monitoring the State special election, if one is held, and take action where appropriate; and continuation of the Civics Education study for one more year, to come to consensus around new Support Positions.

The membership also agreed to continue to support positions of the Alameda County Council of the League on juvenile justice, children's mental health services; and the Alameda County Board of Education and Office of Education.

The featured speaker at the meeting was Kathay Feng, Executive Director of California Common Cause, who addressed the group on "Rogue Redistricting: A National Redistricting Crisis?" (For more details, see our Web site at <http://lwvbae.org>).

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to *Lea Barker, Jane and Tom Coulter, Jean Safir, Mary Wainwright, Phoebe Watts, and Lenora Young*, acknowledging their special accomplishments in League work above and beyond.

*Sherry Smith, President*

### GO VIRTUAL THIS SUMMER!

Besides our own League's website (see front page), the websites of the Bay Area, California and the national League all offer ways to keep up to date with discussion topics and actions.

**Bay Area:** <http://www.lwvba-ca.org>

**California:** <http://ca.lwv.org>

**LWVUS:** <http://lwv.org>

## OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT Annual Report

The Outreach and Development team works to foster growth in local membership, develop new strategies to disseminate information about the League, and enhance fund-raising to support the League program.

### Membership 2004-05

We welcomed 71 new members, a net increase of 16, bringing our total membership to 425.

Co-Chair *Kristina Lim* will serve on the Board for the coming year. *Karen Nelson* will serve as off-Board Co-Chair. *Mina Jenner* continues to process renewal notices and send the Board monthly reports. *Jane Coulter* maintains the membership database.

On the reverse side of your renewal card are checkboxes for you to indicate volunteer interests. Top picks this year include Education, our Civics Study, and Environmental Concerns.

The Membership committee invites you to contact any of us with your interests and suggestions.

*Karen Nelson, Membership Co-Chair*

### Community College Action 2004-05

This has been a year of many changes at the Peralta Community College District. In downtown Berkeley, the new Vista building is finally taking shape, with classes scheduled to start there in January 2006.

Measure E funds cover building construction, but the state will only provide about half the cost of furnishing it. The local foundation, Friends of Vista, has been busily scouting out an estimated \$2 million it will take to outfit our state-of-the-art facility with desks, computers, library books, and anything else that's not nailed down.

At the district level, a fall 2004 review by the accrediting agency for community colleges found the four colleges in reasonable compliance, but pointed out that they could not function well as a whole because the district lacked a meaningful statement of purpose and a strategic plan to achieve its goals.

After the November elections, four new trustees took office, constituting a new majority,

and determined to provide a better framework for the district. The new members include both trustees representing Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville. Learn more about the Board and the Peralta District at

<http://www.peralta.cc.ca.us/index.htm>

Members from all our Peralta Leagues—Piedmont, Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville—interviewed all the trustees and Chancellor Harris this spring. We'll be reporting back to you in the September Voter about their priorities and ideas for the District.

The trustees have already held a two-day retreat to begin developing a strategic plan. They hope to have an outline and/ or a draft by October, in time for the return visit of the accrediting team.

The need for an overall plan became urgent as the new Board began to deal with a proposal from the SUDA corporation to explore the development of the present Laney parking lot and District Administration areas, turning them into income-producing property. The proposal, passed at the final meeting of the previous board, had been widely criticized because the approval came without any formal public notice or opportunity for comment by faculty, students and other stakeholders.

In May, after much behind-the-scenes negotiating, the SUDA proposal was withdrawn.

Our Peralta Leagues have also collaborated on a new Student Voter Education project which was piloted at the College of Alameda this spring, with the active cooperation of Professor Robert Brem. After registering student voters last fall, Leaguers from Oakland and Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville were concerned about the many students who had little or no knowledge of what they would be voting for. Together with Prof. Brem, we developed two hour-long presentations, one on how to decide on issues and candidates, and the other demonstrating how political advertising attempts to manipulate people's opinions.

The two-part series was well-received by the 40-50 students who attended each session, and we anticipate presenting it on other campuses this fall, perhaps training students to lead the discussion themselves.

If any of these topics appeal to you, we welcome new Community College aficionados any time. Just call me at 549-9719.

*Helene Lecar, Coordinator*

### Annual Fund Drive

League members and other donors from the community contributed nearly \$3,400 to the Foundation and over \$3,000 to the General Fund, for a generous response to our annual appeal. Nearly 100 donors deserve our thanks (and they are listed on page 11). Some additional donors who added contributions to their dues were listed in earlier issues of the *VOTER*, and donors designating their gifts for the Eva Bansner Fund for Sustainable Communities have been separately acknowledged in previous *VOTERs*, and in the box to the right.

### Oral History Project

The LWVBAE Oral History Project ended on June 30, 2005. Copies of written materials are at the League Office in Berkeley and at The Bancroft Library.

Grateful thanks to the League Foundation for its generous funding.

Oral history materials most recently added to the Project are Eva Alexis Bansner by *Gail Schickele* (transcript and tapes); Phyllis Clement and *Pat Wadleigh* by *Eloise Bodine* (notes and tapes); Harriet Nathan by *Ora Huth* (transcript and tapes); Dr. *Bea Fraenkel-Conrat* by *Therese Pipe* (unfinished manuscript and tapes); and *Susan Hone* (tapes only from The Bancroft Library).

Previously published oral histories in the Project included Felicia Bock, Margaret Dumas, *Gilda Feller*, *Ruth Ganong*, Elizabeth Schickele, and Sally Severance. Shorter works were done earlier for *Alba Witkin* and Ruth Colby.

Margaret Gordon's oral history, published by the Berkeley Historical Society in the 1980s, is in the Project collection.

In April 2005, *Therese Pipe* gave a presentation at the Southwest Oral History Association Annual Meeting in New Mexico entitled, "Early League of Women Voters of Berkeley: Their Leaders and Pioneers Make a Difference." A copy of this paper will be added to the Project at the League office.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard on this League Project (especially *Marilyn Couch*, *Gail Schickele*, *Ora Huth*,

*Gaby Morris*, *Eloise Bodine*, *Juliet Viola Kniffen*, *Mina Lou Jenner*, *Winifred McLaughlin*, *Carol Stone*, *Jane Bergen*, and *Phyllis Bischof*). And thanks to LWVBAE Presidents *Nancy Bickel* and *Sherry Smith* for their consistent support.

*Therese Pipe*, Coordinator

### DONATIONS DURING APRIL AND MAY TO THE GENERAL FUND

<i>Cecile Briar</i>	<i>Susan Pownall</i>
<i>Marilyn Couch</i>	<i>Meredith Stout</i>
<i>Phyllis Gaines</i>	<i>Helen Wachs</i>
<i>Heidi Gillies</i>	<i>Anne Wagley</i>
<i>Mary Jacobson</i>	<i>Anne Wallach</i>
<i>Allie Norton</i>	

### TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

<i>Ruth Ganong</i>	<i>Helen Wachs</i>
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### TO THE EVA ALEXIS BANSNER FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

<i>Rhoda Alvarez</i>	Frederick Ross
Erick Bansner	Clara Roscoe
Ursula O'Hara	Richard Sager
Robert Blanchard	Suzanne Schneider
<i>Eloise Bodine</i>	<i>Susan Schwartz</i>
Ellen Bruce	<i>Sherry Smith</i>
<i>Ann Crowe</i>	Alexandra Starr
Lillian Foster	<i>Carol Stone</i>
Priscilla Gardiner	<i>Ruthan Taylor</i>
Gary Hancock	Evelyn Wozniak
Tamra Hege	Melvyn Wright
Steve Jepson	Michael & Christine Besack
<i>Yvonne Koshland</i>	<i>Jane &amp; Tom Coulter</i>
Mary MacCready	<i>Jinky &amp; Mike Gardner</i>
Jean Matsuno	Elaine & Boris Kozolchyk
Ursula Mattson	<i>Helene &amp; Harold Lecar</i>
Heinz Mauser	John & Bobbi Molloy
Edelmeron Murphy	Rebecca & Stephen Saltzman
<i>Jo Ann B. Price</i>	Gretchen & Russell Jones Family
Marianna Richter	LWV of Piedmont
	Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program

### NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

*Virginia Havens*  
*Annegret Ogden*  
*R. Vietti*

### "Scrip" Program

Forty-seven League members and friends of the League order Andronico's Scrip every other month as a way to help support the League financially. Six percent of the purchase price is returned to the League. This program brings in about \$3500 each year. In addition, some members order Scrip Advantage cards or coupons for Macys, Longs, Blockbuster, Gottschalks and Home Depot. There are a number of other businesses with Scrip advantage programs available.

If you are not already participating in this program and would like to do so, please give me a call at 527-0673 or send an email to [cetaylor7@comcast.net](mailto:cetaylor7@comcast.net). Thanks to all of you who are helping to support the League.

*Ruthann Taylor, Coordinator*

## PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

### 2004

LWVBAE's Program year began with the Fall General Meeting on Sept. 30 with the presentation of plans in every area of League activity for the coming League year, followed by a buffet supper, and a powerful youth panel on "Why It's Cool To Vote". The study committee for "Civics Education in the Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville Schools", authorized at the May 2004 LWVBAE Annual Meeting, began working under the coordination of Co-Chairs *Jinky Gardner* and *Cathy Lynch* during summer. This hard-working committee went on hiatus during the busy election season and came back to work stronger than ever in Nov.

The local study committee of the LWVC Education Update, working under *Pat Kuhts* leadership, prepared the background and materials during the fall for our member consensus Units. The first of these were held on Dec. 8 and 9.

We held a Program Committee planning meeting on Dec. 13 to brainstorm a series of community outreach events starting in 2005, to include other local organizations with compatible goals and activities. The purpose of these events was to support other groups in their aims and activities that parallel the League's mission or positions, to provide additional exposure and visibility for the League in our three communities, and to encourage

membership.

### 2005

On Jan. 5 and 6, 2005, the Education Update Study committee held their second set of member consensus Units. The committee assessed the results and sent them to the state League office to be compiled with the results from the other 70 California Leagues. The Civics Education Study committee went into high gear in January and eventually decided another year would be necessary to complete their work.

We held a State Program Planning meeting for members on February 3 to discuss LWVBAE's concerns, wishes, and proposals for 2005-2007 program to be put forth by the state Board for adoption by the delegates at the biennial convention in May 2005. The first event LWVBAE co-sponsored with a community organization was held on March 3. It was a showing of "Iron Jawed Angels" at the University YWCA. Both groups were pleased with the interaction and are making plans for further cooperation in the Fall.

In March, the 2005 Annual Community Luncheon Committee chaired by *Joyce Jackson* began planning that fund-raising event, which will be held on Aug. 25 at the Doubletree Hotel on the Berkeley Marina. (Please see the insert in this Summer VOTER.) March 31 was the date set for our members' Local Program Planning session for the 2005-2006 League year.

The LWVBAE Annual Meeting on May 26 ended the League year with a flourish. A buffet supper followed the business meeting at which the members voted to retain our current local positions; monitor the Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville budget-making process for compliance with League positions and take action where appropriate; monitor the California special election, if one is held, and take action where appropriate; and continue the Civics Education Study for another year.

Our speaker was *Kathay Feng*, Executive Director of California Common Cause, on the timely topic of "Rogue Redistricting: A National Redistricting Crisis?" Both the state and national Leagues are working closely with Common Cause on legislation that will ensure fair redistricting in California and all other states.

*Jo Ann B. Price, Program V.P.*

## CIVICS EDUCATION STUDY

At our annual meeting, the LWVBAE membership approved a one-year extension of the civics education study. So far, we have interviewed teachers and administrators in all three of our school districts and gotten out questionnaires to 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students at all 8 of the middle schools and high schools. We asked the administrators what is being covered and how it fits into the graduation requirements. We asked the teachers what was really being covered in their classes; and we asked the students questions to show what they have actually learned.

To date, we have over 900 student questionnaires returned with 3 schools left to pick up.

This will give us a good sampling. The study committee has begun to evaluate the questionnaires; and as you can imagine, there is quite a range of answers. Besides the occasional smart aleck, there are many, very different ideas about what it means to be a citizen, what important rights and responsibilities that entails, and what it means to participate in your government.

We will finish the evaluation over the summer and be ready to share our findings through consensus meetings in the fall. This is an exciting study to work on with a great team, and our findings should help us all to see where the League can have the greatest effect in assisting the schools to carry out their mandate to produce active, informed citizens.

*Jinky Gardner and Cathy Lynch, Study co-chairs*

## ACTION ANNUAL REPORT

The biggest single Action effort of the past year was in connection with the November 2004 election. Voters in all three of our cities had to decide on ballot propositions. We reviewed all of the local measures to decide whether our Support Positions would lead us to support, oppose or remain neutral on each of them.

League members spent many hours handing out local and state "Vote with the League" flyers at supermarkets, BART stations, the UC campus and busy commercial areas, receiving lots of thanks from the public.

Monthly meetings of the Action Committee

kept all of us informed about the many issues affecting our three cities and watched by our members. Thus we were able to take appropriate action in keeping with our Support Positions.

For example, with the defeat of all of Berkeley's ballot measures that were designed to increase funding for city services, we invited the City Manager and his staff to speak to us about their expected response in preparing a proposed budget for the coming year.

Out of that meeting came a decision to join with the City in sponsoring a series of community workshops to draw out public comments on budget priorities. Three meetings were held in the spring, with many League members joining in to lead table discussions.

The last monthly meeting of the year was devoted solely to drafting questions to be used in interviews of City Council members and Mayors of our three cities. The main focus of the interviews is to remind these officials that League does have Support Positions that are relevant to the issues that will come before them and to let them know that we hope to be able to support them in the actions they will take during their tenure in office. The interviews will be scheduled in the fall, after the questions are finalized and copies are sent to each elected official.

Throughout the year, Action Letters were sent to State representatives and to the press in response to LWVC "calls to action" -- communications from the State League urging us to support (or oppose) bills being considered by the Legislature. In these letters, we expressed League support for single-payer health insurance for all Californians, as contained in Senate Bill 840, sponsored by State Sen. Sheila Kuehl. We also urged the Governor and the legislature to enact effective reform of the redistricting process, in accord with LWVC recommendations. On local issues, we sent a letter to the Berkeley City Council with recommendations on consolidating a few of the City's many boards and commissions.

We can only touch on the highlights here, but more information on all League advocacy efforts is available through the office at 843-8824. Please feel free to call if you're interested and plan to join us in any or all of our activities this fall.

*Jean Safir, Action Vice President*

## ADMINISTRATION ANNUAL REPORT

As the number of calls and office work decrease for the summer, our dedicated volunteers are preparing for a summer break. From June 15 through August 15, a person drops by intermittently to check the mail and listen to messages. This contrasts with the 18 regularly scheduled volunteers who work an estimated 300 scheduled hours to keep the office open from September through May.

As 2004 was an election year, we tried to cover the office every day during election season. On many days from September through Election Day, we had a person scheduled both in the morning and the afternoon.

In addition to our Board members, who we asked to give at least one day a month, several non-Board members regularly staff the office. These include *Suzanne Chun, Phoebe Watts, Jane Barrett, Ruthann Taylor, Vi Feinauer, Louetta Erlin, Lenora Young, Karen Nelson, Marion Luten* and *Ginette Polak*.

We also have dedicated volunteers who help assemble each month's VOTER. They are: *Diane Akers, Claudia Berger, Ann Berry, Gretchen Carlson, Suzanne Chun, Elizabeth De Velbiss, Marianne Graham, Connie Murphy (student), Barbara Nelson, Jean Safir, Sherry Smith, Barbara Stern, Carol Talbeck, Renate Tubman, and Teresa Wong*.

Two major Administration goals were accomplished this year. We renewed our Andronico's lease through 2010, and we purchased a new copier.

A special thanks to our Office Manager, *Karen Carlson-Olson*. She is a luxury that keeps our office functioning. Karen is paid for 12.5 hours per week, but I suspect she puts in many more than that. She must in order to: assist with email; pay bills; answer phones; make deposits; keep email addresses current; file; provide information to anyone who requests it; identify items for purchase, then buy them; and type for board members. Karen also coordinates the mailing of the VOTER - gets it to and from the printer, makes labels and ensures we have enough hands to fold, label and sort the printed copies.

Karen this year coordinated the Mock Election at MacGregor and Albany High Schools, helped arrange Candidates Forums for

Albany, and continues to work through the Master File List, which has taken a lot of her time and energy. As a result, we can now actually find things we have filed. She has also cataloged and labeled most bookcase items so members can find material they need. Her goal for the upcoming year is to organize the Treasurer's work area and files.

Lastly, although it is the responsibility of the Vice President of Administration to schedule the office volunteer coverage, *Ruthann Taylor* has managed this task throughout the year. I am so lucky to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable person help me. If you are interested in volunteering at the League Office, please contact *Ruthann Taylor* - 527- 0673.

*Diane Akers, Vice President for Administration*

## VOTER SERVICES

Our League was on the front lines for last fall's effort to register voters in advance of the Presidential election.

We worked at Berkeley High to register eligible students. We distributed registration forms at all of our events and increased the number of sites we kept stocked with forms from the usual 20 some to 118! And the forms kept disappearing!

We researched, wrote and printed our local Pros & Cons to explain 17 ballot measures (13 for Berkeley, and 2 each for Albany and Emeryville).

We ordered and distributed Pros & Cons from the State (16 measures) and Bay Area (3 measures) Leagues.

Given the load, our Pros & Cons speakers had their work cut out for them. We were invited by 29 organizations to help them make sense of this crowded ballot.

And then there were the candidate forums. We taped and televised forums for the Berkeley City Council, School Board, and the Rent Board. We hosted several live forums including ones for the Albany City Council and School Board.

Thanks to all our members who made this possible!!!

One final thought - our Governor has called a special election for November 8. LWVBAE needs you to step up to the plate again. Please volunteer when you can.

*Jinky Gardner, Voter Services VP*

## ASUC ELECTION 2005

This year's ASUC election concluded on Friday, May 6, 2005 with an electronic tabulation of ballots in Eshleman Hall. For the 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, our League provided oversight services.

However, unlike most of those 27 years, where as many as one hundred League volunteers manned polling places and supervised hand counts of paper ballots, the League this year provided a small number of roving observers to ensure that proper election practices were being followed at the 17 electronic polling stations located around the campus and in student dining commons. We also supervised two provisional ballot boxes for use by students choosing to vote on paper; but, of the more than 7,300 ballots cast, only 4 were provisional. It seems that students have almost complete faith in electronic voting.

Beginning in January, League supervisors *Sherry Smith, Bill Chapman, and Tom and Jane Coulter*, worked with student Election Chair Angel Brewer and ASUC staffer Jan Crowder as advisors on proper election practices. Our advice was required only occasionally, as the Election Council, under Brewer's able leadership, setup what proved to be one of the most trouble free elections in anyone's memory.

At this time, rumor has it that the ASUC Senate has ordered that next year's election be conducted online via the World Wide Web. Should this prove to be true, election 2005 may have been our swan song as ASUC election supervisors. Our expertise does not yet extend to Internet voting practices, and we would therefore not be able to certify that an online election had been fairly conducted. Stay tuned to see what develops.

*Bill Chapman*

## LWVC 2005 BIENNIAL CONVENTION It's A New World!

The five Orange County Leagues wholeheartedly welcomed California League of Women Voters delegates for the weekend of May 20-22. Your five LWVBAE delegates - *Sherry Smith, Jinky Gardner, Pat Kuhl, Helene Lecar, and Jo Ann Price* - enjoyed a busy three days.

Activities included:

- networking with like-minded folks at caucuses on civics education, improving the state League study process, energy, and health care;
- attending workshops on energy, fundraising, voter service, increasing membership, reforming state government, taking effective action, and League administration;
- acting the role of "good" delegates at the plenary sessions by listening, debating the issues, and voting;
- enjoying the many opportunities for socializing;
- participating fully in every aspect of LWVC Convention 2005.

The four major speakers spoke with passion:

- John Mott Smith, Manager, Voter Outreach Program, Office of the Secretary of State, on voter outreach;
- Kathay Feng, Executive Director, California Common Cause, on redistricting;
- Bruce McPherson, California Secretary of State, on his efforts to get Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds released to California, and what's in store regarding voting machines with a verifiable recount capability; and
- State Senator Sheila Kuehl, District 23, on Health Care For All - her bill for single-payer health care.

The delegates adopted a budget; elected officers and directors; and reaffirmed support for existing state positions. We also chose three issues for "education and advocacy" (new terminology replacing the old 'issues for emphasis'). These are Redistricting, State and Local Finance, and Health Care. We passed three resolutions as the "will of the convention" on the U.S. Patriot Act, Aquifer Protection, and the California Environmental Act (CEQA). Go to: [http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/conv05-resolutions\\_index.htm](http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/conv05-resolutions_index.htm) to read the resolutions.

The LWVC is the largest state League in the United States, with 70 local and four county/area Leagues, and more than 11,000 members.

*Jo Ann B. Price, Program Vice President*

## WINTER 2004-05 FUNDRAISING DRIVE DONORS – MANY THANKS!

### GENERAL FUND

<i>Akers, Diane</i>	<i>Allen, Jean M.</i>
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<i>Crowe, Ann</i>	<i>Davis, Peggy Anne</i>
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<i>Lecar, Helene</i>	<i>McLaughlin, Winifred</i>
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<i>Singer, Rosalind</i>	<i>Smith, Sherry</i>
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<i>Watts, Phoebe</i>	<i>White, Doris</i>
<i>Wikle, Lessly</i>	<i>Witkin, Alba</i>
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### LWVBAE FOUNDATION

<i>Akers, Diane</i>	<i>Arnold, Robert</i>
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<i>Feinauer, Violet</i>	<i>Ganong, Ruth</i>
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<i>Grossman, Helen</i>	<i>Grossman, Joan</i>
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<i>Lewis, Florence C.</i>	<i>Lichtenberg, Elizabeth</i>
<i>Light, Evelyn</i>	<i>Lynch, Catherine</i>
<i>Miyazaki, Sarah/Jay</i>	<i>Nelson, Karen</i>
<i>Raride, M.A.</i>	<i>Rosenfeld, Roselyn B.</i>
<i>Silverstein, R.J.</i>	<i>Stern, Barbara</i>
<i>Tichinin, June W.</i>	<i>Townes, Frances</i>
<i>Wallach, Anne</i>	<i>Wallmann, Mary</i>
<i>Walter, Rex</i>	<i>Warner, Paul</i>
<i>White, Doris L.</i>	<i>Wikle, Lessly</i>
<i>Woodard, Cheryl</i>	

### News from the Bay Area League

The **Bay Area Monitor** June/July, 2005 issue will include the following stories:

- Creating a Bay Area Master Plan for Water
- Rethinking CEQA: A New Look at Environmental Impact Reports
- Bad Air Day Means Free Ride to Work - BART, Bus or Ferry
- Air District Looks Back - and Ahead
- New Transit, New Riders: A Policy to Make the Promise Come True

These articles can be viewed on the **Monitor** website [www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)

The Monitor needs observers for the following agencies:

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Golden Gate Bridge District; East Bay Regional Parks District (just lost a monitor)
- Caltrain
- WTA (Water Transit Authority)

They pay \$25 to either the local League or the observer for any month in which the observer attends at least one meeting and submits a report. The Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Port are also of interest, but since they are not directly involved with the Monitor, it will not pay for monitoring their meetings. If you are interested or would like to know more, send a message to [president@lwvba-ca.org](mailto:president@lwvba-ca.org).



**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS**  
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville  
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Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

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## CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated

### 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  
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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.**

#### JULY

6 Wed. 7-9pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office	<i>S. Smith, 548-1769</i>
12 Tues. 7-9pm	Civics Education	<i>J. Gardner, 548-5292</i>
26 Tues. 7-9pm	Civics Education	<i>J. Gardner, 548-5292</i>

#### AUGUST

3 Wed. 7-9pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office	<i>S. Smith, 548-1769</i>
5 Fri. noon	Deadline for the September <i>VOTER</i>	<i>B. Chapman, 527-0827</i>
15 Mon.	LWVBAE Office reopens	
25 Thurs. 11:30am	<b>Annual LWVBAE Community Luncheon</b> Doubletree, Berkeley Marina	<i>J. Jackson, 527-0191</i>

#### SEPTEMBER

7 Wed. 7-9pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office	<i>S. Smith, 548-1769</i>
9 Fri. noon	Deadline for the October <i>VOTER</i>	<i>B. Chapman, 527-0827</i>
10 Sat.	LWVC Regional Fall Training Session	
11 Sun. 10:30-5:00	Solano Stroll (volunteers needed in shifts for League table)	<i>J. Gardner, 548-5292</i>
24 Sat.	LWVBA Know Your Bay Area Day	

#### PLEASE NOTE

There may be meetings of the Environmental Concerns (*Carol Stone, 549-0959*) and Action (*Phoebe Watts, 525-6614*) committees during the summer. Their usual lists of attendees will be notified; but if you would like to know if, when and where one of these Committees will meet, please call the person whose name and number appear after the Committee name.