



President: Sherry Smith

September 2004

Editor: Lea Barker

FALL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, September 30 – 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley

Panel Topic: A CHALLENGE FOR LWV:

GETTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO KNOW HOW “COOL” IT IS TO VOTE

Can a disillusioned and cynical youth demographic be educated and inspired to get out and vote in November?

This Fall is a crucial performance time for the League of Women Voters across the nation. The League is in the business of registering and educating citizens and getting them out to vote, but this year we have the added challenge of convincing the “9/11 Generation” that “IT’S COOL TO VOTE!”. Can the League – you and I – get the “9/11 Generation” out to vote in November? What action can we take and what answers can we give to make clear the value and importance of every vote? Several new youth organizations have been created to help make this happen. [Please see box on p. 2]

Members of this generation say such things as: “I don’t really care about that stuff,” and “Not voting is voting against the system,” and “The electoral college system diminishes the importance of one vote – mine.”

Come hear an exciting panel of registered cool young people [Declined to State, Democrat, Green, Independent, Republican], moderated by a 30-something local journalist, discuss their ideas on how to engage the “9/11 Generation” on the issues of the day and inspire them to vote in November and for the rest of their lives.

Jo Ann B. Price, Program V.P.

In This Issue

- p. 2 President’s column
- Donations
- New members
- p. 3 LWVUS Convention
- p. 4 Recycling in Berkeley
- Environmental Concerns
- p. 5 Help wanted
- p. 6 Community College Update
- p. 7 Know Your Bay Area Day
- In Memoriam: *Ruth Scheer*
- Notices for Fall Meeting
- p. 8 Calendar

FALL GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. The Fall General Meeting will begin with a delicious **Buffet Supper**. The cost is \$15 and the deadline is September 23. Please send checks to the League office or call and let us know that you will pay at the door. Members may bring their own dinner if they prefer. Should you like us to arrange a ride for you, please call the office.

6:30 p.m. The **Business Meeting** will follow. Important voting items will be an increase in dues and the scope of the Civics Study adopted at the Annual Meeting. (See page 7)

7:00 p.m. The **Panel** of young voters will discuss how to get the “9/11 Generation” involved in the issues and out to vote in November.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear League Members---

It is *such* a pleasure to introduce myself to people as President of the LWVBAE. Wherever I am, in League circles or around and about the city, county, or even the state, people are aware of who we are and that we have this wonderful "brand" that assures people that whatever we support or oppose, we do so after considerable study and deliberation.

Your Board of Directors has taken, on behalf of the League, stands of support, opposition, or neutrality on the local measures that will appear on the November 2 ballots for Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville. We have two measures that we are still studying, and in the next issue of the *VOTER* we will publish the complete list. We will also prepare a "Vote With the League" publication that we will distribute to give you and the community at large further information on our stands, along with the usual "Pros and Cons."

In short, we are hard at work on registering voters, providing election information to the many who call our office, and preparing our educational materials,

speakers, and candidate forums to assist voters in making informed choices. *You are invited to help with any and all of this.* Many members tell us this is the very reason they joined the League, and it is one of the core reasons for our existence. Please call the office at 843-8824 and tell us how you would like to lend a hand (or two).

At our next Board meeting (September 2, in the League office at 7:00) we will be dividing up the entire membership list among us and you will be called by a Board member by the end of September to check in with you and find out what are your interests in helping support the League program. We want to find a comfortable fit for each member and to get a bit more acquainted with you in the process.

Please join us at the Fall General Membership Meeting on September 30 at the Northbrae Community Church. More details are in another article in this *VOTER*.

Thanks again for giving me the very enjoyable task of being your President.

--Sherry Smith, President

DONATIONS in May, June and July

To the General Fund

<i>Cecile Briar</i>	<i>Helene & Harold Lecar</i>
<i>Peggy Casey</i>	<i>Julie Nachtwey</i>
<i>Katherine Castro</i>	<i>Susan Pownall</i>
<i>Marilyn Couch</i>	<i>Mary Rose Ryan</i>
<i>Patricia Kates</i>	<i>Anne P. Wagley</i>

To the LWVB Foundation

<i>Jean M. Allen</i>	<i>Ann-Marie Hogan</i>
<i>Georgia Babladelis</i>	<i>Helene Strauss</i>

To the Tribute Fund

Eloise Bodine – in memory of *Margaret Dumas*

In memory of *Emma Lue Kopp*:

<i>Eloise Bodine</i>	<i>Priscilla Mayden</i>
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	<i>Marjorie & Hugh Rubinow</i>
<i>Evelyn Light</i>	<i>Ruthann Taylor</i>

NEW MEMBERS

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

<i>Priscilla Berge</i>	<i>Helen Mehoudar</i>
<i>Sheila Cain</i>	<i>Dunbar Ogden</i>
<i>Lisa Caronna</i>	<i>David Richardson</i>
<i>Joan Diamond</i>	<i>Carol Talbeck</i>
<i>Mary Gaillard</i>	<i>Gale Townsley</i>
<i>John Hammerman</i>	<i>Mr. I. Vonderhude</i>
<i>Jeanne W. Klems</i>	<i>Elizabeth Wolgast</i>
<i>Harold Lecar</i>	

YOUTH VOTER WEBSITES

Citizen Change: www.citizenchange.com
 Declare Yourself: www.declareyourself.com
 Hip Hop Summit Action Network: www.hsan.org
 Punk Voter: www.punkvoter.com
 Rock the Vote: www.rockthevote.com
 Smackdown Your Vote: <http://vote.wwe.com>
 Voter Virgin: www.votervirgin.com

LWVUS CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The League of Women Voters of the United States held its 46th biennial convention in June in Washington D.C. About 750 delegates from 47 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands attended. California sent 100 delegates and five of those were from our own League.

"This Convention proved that the League remains a vibrant, grassroots organization," stated Kay J. Maxwell, newly re-elected president. Indeed it did! Two resolutions that reversed major program recommendations of the national Board were submitted from the floor of the convention and both resolutions were approved by the delegates.

One of these placed the League's positions on *individual liberties* and *citizen's right to know* at the highest priority for education and advocacy for the coming two years. This action was generated by a serious concern -- expressed by a panel of distinguished speakers and by delegates at a number of study sessions -- about the effect that recently adopted federal legislation, including the Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act, has on civil liberties.

The other resolution cited the strong disagreement that members had with the position taken by the Board that a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail should not be required with the new Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines. Instead, delegates adopted more general wording that has now become national policy:

"In order to ensure integrity and voter confidence in elections, the LWVUS supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, re-countable and accessible."

With this wording, local and state Leagues would be free to take actions as appropriate to the various voting technologies available in their own areas.

In addition to the serious work of adopting a national program and budget, delegates enjoyed many lighthearted events at the convention. One was the banquet on the last evening, where guest speaker Helen Thomas regaled us with many of her memories from the 57 years she served as White House bureau chief and correspondent for United Press International. Another was a performance by Capitol Steps, the Washington-based troupe of former Congressional staffers turned political satirists, songwriters and singers; they were hilarious!

The LWVBAE members who attended -- *Sherry Smith, Jo Ann Price, Helene Lecar, Lea Barker* and *Jean Safir* -- were all very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this exciting and enjoyable event.

- *Jean Safir*, Vice President, Action

To view Civil Liberties information on the LWVUS web site:

At the LWVUS homepage (www.lwv.org), go to the "Get Involved" section. Civil liberties is listed as the third *Hot Issue*. Clicking on this takes you to the "Civil Liberty" area, which includes Liberty Circles, resource links and LWVUS letters to Congress. It also includes a "What can I do?" option. This link takes members to a set of organizing materials, background information and an earlier list of what the League has done to support civil liberties.

30 YEARS OF CURBSIDE RECYCLING IN BERKELEY

On March 8, Ecology Center Executive Director Martin Bourque spoke to LWVBAE Environmental Concerns about 30 years of collecting recyclable materials from residents of Berkeley, where an average day yields 21 tons of would-be trash for sorting into marketable materials. "In most cases it's cheaper than garbage collecting," Bourque said.

Sorted paper, cardboard and glass continue to recycle well, but disposing of plastics is an uphill battle with no markets for #'s 3-7, Bourque said. Plastics downcycle rather than recycle, are energy intensive to produce and reuse, and some are toxic to produce and dispose. Plastics are produced as part of the oil refining process. Because the U.S. Government subsidizes the petroleum industry, virgin plastics resins are inexpensive, leaving no incentive for recycled materials. According to the American Plastics Council, up to 90 percent of the PET#1 plastics collected on the West Coast, including Berkeley, are part of the international waste trade exported to the Shanghai region of China for reprocessing into fiberfill for clothing, sleeping bags and pillows.

Modern recycling caught on around the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970. Most early efforts were drop-off stations for paper, cans, and bottles. Without city subsidies, proceeds couldn't cover expenses; programs were volunteer-run to divert waste, not to make a profit.

An EPA grant in Solid Waste Management obtained for the League by *Beth Schickele*, founder of LWVBAE Environmental Concerns Committee, led to the first demonstration project for curbside pick-up in Berkeley via the Solid Waste Management Commission. The Commission's founder and League member *Ariel Parkinson* and the Commission's then president, Terry Harrison, worked with Beth to negotiate with the City of Berkeley and the

Department of Public Works. The project aided the Ecology Center in becoming one of the first community groups to do curbside pick-ups and one of the longest-running curbside programs in the country.

The creed remains vital:

- **Reduce** consumption and waste;
- **Reuse** or **Recycle** everything possible;
- **Compost** garden and kitchen scraps.

The Ecology Center supports development of a City of Berkeley Zero Waste Policy, similar to zero waste plans or resolutions passed in San Francisco, Del Norte County, Santa Cruz County, and in North Carolina, Oregon, and Washington.

For more information, contact www.ecologycenter.org or 510-548-2220.

-submitted by *Gail Schickele*

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Meets the second Monday of each month, Sept.-May, beginning Sept. 13, 7:30 pm.

GET INVOLVED!!

Carol Stone, ph. 549-0959, is looking for another Co-chair or "assistant chair" to help send out 25 or so **announcements** which she creates on e-mail and can copy.

Could you **attend Action Committee meetings** when relevant to bring action on environmental issues of interest?

Or maybe you'd like to **write an article** for the *VOTER* about the speaker series?

Fire Protection for Political Decision Makers

Environmental Concerns Committee Co-chair *Gil Bendix* is writing a manual to assist elected officials in making better decisions about such things as the positioning of fire stations and budget allocations. Born out of Gil's own experience as a commissioner for the Kensington Fire District, and with input from people working in the field, the manual will be published by the Diablo Firesafe Council.

HELP WANTED

Your efforts are most welcome in helping the League achieve its mission of encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. Here are some ways you can contribute to this in what is shaping up to be a very busy election year, and on an ongoing basis. If any of these interest you, leave word at the office and someone will get back to you, or contact the people whose names are given below.

OFFICE TIME

The key point of contact for Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville residents who turn to the League of Women Voters for information is the office, so it's very important that we have it staffed as often as possible. The shifts are not onerous – 10-1 or 1-4 – but it really is a vital point of contact between the League and the public at large. Please consider getting yourself on the roster. Call *Diane Akers* (527-1288) or *Ruthann Taylor* (527-0673).

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!!!

Help raise the League's public profile. At both the *Solano Stroll* (Sept. 12) and the *How Berkeley Can You Be?* event (Sept 19), we will have tables stocked with voter registration forms, and marchers in the parades. We need energetic marchers and enthusiastic table sitters who have 2 hours they can give between 10 am and 4 pm on either, or both, of those days. Call our VP of Voter Services, *Jinky Gardner*, at 548-5292 or email her at jinkybsg@comcast.net

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to

drop off voter registration forms at the various venues the League supplies, such as libraries. Besides the voter service you will be performing, you will also be adding to the League's financial well-being, as we get a small amount of money for each registration form that has been sent in by us. Call *Lenora Young* at 843-1030 to volunteer.

POLLWORKERS

Quite apart from the contribution to a vibrant democracy that you can make through the League, there is always the opportunity to participate in the elections more directly by contacting the Registrar of Voters to become a poll worker. Phone 272-6971.

HERE'S A BIGGIE...

You could be a Chair or Co-chair of a mock election at Berkeley High School. The school community does the legwork but the League's coordination is what helps make the mock election a happening thing! Leave the date open on your calendar – October 28. We need people for jobs big and small. To volunteer in any capacity, call *Helene Lecar*, 549-9719.

ASSISTANTS AT CANDIDATE FORUMS

Once these get under way, we'll need folks to collect the cards on which audience members write their questions, and also timekeepers. Again, you'll have an opportunity to do the League proud, and, as a bonus, educate yourself about the candidates and the issues facing our communities.

BACKROOM WORKERS

In mid-September, when the *Easy Voter* and *Pros and Cons* literature arrives at the League office for packaging, you have the opportunity to work behind the scenes putting those packages together and to distribute them to the many outlets that request our material. You work off a list for each outlet, and it is easy, warm, and dry! A valuable service in just a few hours! Contact *Jinky Gardner* (548-5292) to volunteer for this essential task that is much appreciated in the community.

SPEAKERS NEEDED

Here's your chance to get some experience in public speaking, while receiving training and guidance from an already experienced member of the League's speaking team. Many organizations ask for LWVBAE speakers to help their membership understand what is on the ballot and make informed choices, so this is a very good way to contribute to the League's visibility and mission.

OBSERVERS

A valuable service that you could perform is to volunteer as an observer of council or commission meetings of your city. If the meetings are on cable TV, you need not even leave the comfort of your own home! OR you could keep an eye on things at the regional, state and national levels of the League and alert the Board to anything of particular interest. Contact *Jean Safir*, Action VP at jeansafir@comcast.net or 524-9088, if you are interested.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE

Progress on the Vista Building

On July 13, the Peralta Board of Trustees unanimously approved a \$40 million contract to erect our new Vista building. Construction of the building, to begin shortly, should top out in March of '05. While the new campus facility probably won't be ready for occupancy until January of '06, the entire Vista community will have much to cheer about as we celebrate the college's 30th anniversary this coming October. Watch for further details in next month's *Voter*.

Vista and Peralta Personnel

At the same meeting, the Board appointed Judy Walters as the new interim President of Vista. Having worked in the District Office for the last 4 years, as Senior Vice Chancellor for Instruction, she comes to the college with a wealth of experience.

The makeup of the Board itself is likely to change considerably in November. At least three of the four seats, including both of those representing Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville, will be up for grabs. If all three trusteeships are contested, candidates' forums will give us an excellent opportunity to have some choices about the people who will lead the District in the next four years.

In the meantime, Peralta Chancellor, Elihu Harris has been working to bring decision-making closer to the campuses. President Walters' previous position will not be refilled, nor will any of the other senior vice-chancellor slots. Instead, their responsibilities will be divided up, with central managers coordinating the efforts and decisions of campus personnel and overseeing the work of external suppliers on outsourced projects. A major gap that has impeded the district's budget-making abilities should be filled by August 30 with the appointment of a new Chief Financial Officer. Assuming no further

budget calamities, the Chancellor sees Vista acquiring two new full-time faculty positions and an additional dean in the near future.

In an interview in late July, he indicated that he was eager to broaden the district's connections to the community in various ways--running public lectures on topics of local interest, increasing internship opportunities for students with community businesses, and expanding outreach to include more Peralta-run centers like the current Fruitvale extension to provide services closer to where people live.

The California State Budget and the Community Colleges

Governor Schwarzenegger signed the state's \$105-billion budget on July 31. The final appropriations for the community colleges were about as generous as the state's current financial condition would allow.

Some highlights:

- *Fees for students* will increase from \$18 to \$26 per unit, but there will be no additional fee for students already holding an AB degree.
- *Equalization* was funded at \$80 million. This will enable the CC districts with the lowest allocations, dating back to Prop 13, to begin to catch up with better funded districts. As a district in the middle of the allocations curve, Peralta will benefit, but only a little.
- *Enrollment Growth*, funded at \$27 million, will now cover some 7200 additional students. Since growth fund cuts for the UC and CSU systems were restored at the same time, no university-eligible students need be "redirected," and the CCs can use all their growth money to support their traditional population.
- *Non-credit courses*, always funded at a lower rate per FTES than college-level courses, will also have more money. The budget allocates an added \$2 million to pay for such basic skills, ESL, citizenship and programs for the disabled.

--Helene Lecar, Chair, Community College Committee

KNOW YOUR BAY AREA DAY

OCEAN WATER ON TAP

Economic, Political and Environmental Issues of
Desalination Plants

Saturday, October 2, 2004, 9:30am – 1:30pm

San Francisco Bay Model Visitor Center

2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito

The topic will be about desalination plant projects and water, with panels discussing economic, political and environmental issues of locating and operating plants of this type in the Bay Area. Two panels will include representatives from the bay area water agencies planning these projects, as well as the regulators charged with project approvals.

Speakers and panelists will include:

- Hasan Abdullah, EBMUD
- Jared Huffman, Marin Muni Water
- Ernesto Avila, consultant for the Northern California Salinity Coalition
- Al Wanger, Deputy Director of California Coastal Commission
- Jeff Blanchard, BCDC
- Marc DelPiero, Pajaro-Sunny Mesa Comm. Service District.

Program will include:

- Overview of Desalination Issues
- Why Desalination?
- Roles of agencies, federal, state and local
- Private projects?
- Political issues
- Public support
- Permitting
- Who gets the water?
- Economic issues: costs, prices and funding mechanisms
- Environmental issues

More details of the event can be found on the LWVBA web site at www.lwvba-ca.org

Directions to Bay Model:

Highway 280 or 101 north to 19th Ave in San Francisco. Drive over Golden Gate Bridge. Continuing on Highway 1 take the last Sausalito exit, Sausalito/Marin City exit, turn right on Bridgeway. Off exit is on Bridgeway, brown and white signs.

The cost is \$10.00 (to cover continental breakfast and printed material.) **BAE MEMBERS wishing to go to this meeting** should call the office (843-8824) to sign up and indicate if they want to form a car pool. We'll make the arrangements and pay with one check.

In Memoriam: *Ruth Scheer*

Ruth was born in 1907, a third generation Californian. She attended the original Thousand Oaks School and continued through the Berkeley Schools and the University of California. One of her childhood memories was of her father taking his horses to landscape the ground for Thousand Oaks Community Church (now Northbrae Community Church). In childhood she had many illnesses, including malaria, but was admired in later life for her appearance of health and strength and, particularly, for her posture.

Over the years she undertook many leadership roles in the community. She joined the Berkeley League in the '30s and was President and State President in the '40s. She worked for seventeen years for the Berkeley Personnel Board. For many years she was a Trustee of the Alta Bates Foundation. In 1990, she entered Lake Park Retirement Residence in Oakland where she was generally admired for her regal appearance, but loved by those who knew her best for her kindness, wit and "radical" views.

Contributed by *Polly Amrein*

FALL GENERAL MEETING NOTICES

NEW STUDY

At the Fall General Meeting, the Board will ask the membership to approve the scope of the Civics Education study: "Are the public schools in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville teaching our students to be responsible citizens, and what level of study is required at each grade level, kindergarten through 12th grade?"

INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Board will also ask the membership to approve an increase in annual dues from \$55 to \$58 for League members and from \$25 to \$27 for a second League member in the household. The reason for this increase is to accommodate recent increases in per member payments for LWVUS and LWVC.

CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated



September

2	Thurs.	7 - 9 pm	Board Meeting	LWVBAE Office	S. Smith, 548-1769
3	Friday	Noon	Deadline for October VOTER	lwvbae@pacbell.net	Barker, 532-5773
6	Mon.		LWVBAE Office Closed for Labor Day		Akers, 527-1288
12	Sun.	10 - 4 pm	<i>Solano Stroll</i>	Solano Ave., Albany & Berkeley	Gardner, 548-5292
13	Mon.	7:30 pm	Environmental Concerns Committee		Stone, 549-0959
19	Sun.	10 - 4 pm	<i>How Berkeley Can You Be?</i>	Civic Center Park	Gardner, 548-5292
23	Thurs.	7:30 pm	Action Committee	1419 Grant (Watts)	Safir, 524-9088
30	Thurs.	5:30 - 9 pm	FALL GENERAL MEETING	Northbrae Community Church	Price, 548-5206

October

2	Sat.	9:30 - 1:30 pm	Know Your Bay Area Day	SF Bay Model Visitor Center, Sausalito	Office, 843-8824
6	Wed.	7 - 9 pm	Board Meeting	LWVBAE Office	S. Smith, 548-1769
8	Friday	Noon	Deadline for November VOTER	lwvbae@pacbell.net	Barker, 532-5773
11	Mon.	7:30 pm	Environmental Concerns Committee		Stone, 549-0959
18	Mon.	5 pm	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NOV. 2 GENERAL ELECTION		
21	Thurs.	7:30 pm	Action Committee	1419 Grant (Watts)	Safir, 524-9088
26	Tue.	5 pm	LAST DAY TO SUBMIT ABSENTEE BALLOT TO REGISTRAR OF VOTERS		

IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Just fill in the blanks below, clip and mail this information to us with your check for

*annual dues made out to: \$55
LWVBAE*

*1414 University Avenue, Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____ Eve: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Joining 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 the extent allowed by law.

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

