



The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

President: Jinky Gardner

September 2006

Editors: A. Kisch and J. Brandes

FALL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 27 – 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley

Topic: CALIFORNIA CLEAN MONEY CAMPAIGN

Speaker: TRENT LANGE, Vice President, California Clean Money Campaign Board

We are most fortunate to have as our speaker at this year’s Fall Meeting an individual with unique expertise in the area of clean money and clean elections. **Trent Lange** is Vice President of the **California Clean Money Campaign Board** and for the past three years has been closely involved in the day-to-day operations of the Campaign. **Proposition 89**, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, qualified for the November 2006 ballot after 620,000 Californians signed the petition circulated by the California Nurses Association. The California League of Women Voters has endorsed Proposition 89, along with the California Clean Money Campaign, California Common Cause, Public Campaign, the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, and the Greenlining Institute.

Trent Lange is also Vice President and CEO of Lange Fund Management, LLC and the founder of Non-Profit Catalyst. Please come and hear Mr. Lange on September 27, and encourage friends, family and neighbors to join in what promises to be an exciting and informative evening.

The cost of the dinner is \$15. Please reserve your places by telephoning the League office. If you have reservations, you will be able to pay for your tickets at the door by cash or check; we encourage you, however, to mail us your check in advance.

The Business Meeting will include presentation of projected LWVBAE activities for 2006-2007, reports from the Civics Action Committee, Membership Recruitment, the LWVUS Convention, and

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FALL GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE

- 5:00pm: Registration
- 5:15pm: Buffet Dinner Catered by Poulet
- 6:00pm: Brief Business Meeting
- 6:45pm: Schmoozing Over Exhibits
- 7:00pm: Trent Lange

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I hope you all had a relaxing and refreshing summer, and are filled with lots of energy as we go into, yet another, election season. It is already time to staff tables at the Solano Stroll, and the How Berkeley Can You Be? festivals; to keep boxes around our towns filled with voter registration forms; and get the current election information into the SmartVoter website. Soon, we will start conducting Candidate Forums, and sending teams of speakers out to explain the many ballot measures.

Many "old hats" who have done these jobs before are ready to go again, but we need "new hats" to step up, join in, share the fun, and enjoy the satisfaction that accompanies doing an important service well. Experienced members will provide guidance, direction, and training. So, please, call the office, 843-8824, leave your name, phone number and interest, and you will be contacted pronto!

Besides these services, LWVBAE will be campaigning actively on several local and statewide ballot measures. Watch your email for Action Alerts.

We have a dynamic speaker lined up for our Fall Meeting who will be talking about Proposition 89, the Clean Money/Fair Elections initiative. Come, enjoy the social time, and get informed on this issue. Better yet, bring a friend!

After the election is over, there will be lots of other things going on. Keep on the lookout for an issue that interests you. This will be an exciting year!

Your new President, *Jinky Gardner*

JULY DONATIONS TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

George Breslauer	Goodwin Liu
Suzanne Chun	Catherine Lynch
Sherry Keith	Christopher McKee
Jane Ann Lamph	Letitia Volpp

Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary

ALBANY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS RUTH GANONG

The Albany Chamber of Commerce has announced that *Ruth Ganong* will receive the Albany Chamber 2006 Citizen of the Year Award on Tuesday, August 29, 2006.

Ruth's commitment to her community and generous donation of her time have resulted in her serving as a former Mayor of Albany and as a member of the Albany City Council, the Albany Planning and Zoning Commission, the Albany Traffic and Safety Commission, the Albany Waterfront Committee, the Albany/Berkeley YMCA Board, and the Albany Social and Economic Justice Commission.

Ruth is a member of our Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville League of Women Voters and, most recently, of the Albany Historical Society.

The Albany Chamber has invited all LWVBAE members to join them at Ruth's Award Dinner on August 29. Tickets to the dinner are \$25, and reservations may be made through the Chamber office at (510) 525-1771 or on their website www.albanychamber.org.

Karen Carlson-Olson

Fall General Meeting (continued from p. 1)

updates on the current activities of LWVUS and LWVCalifornia. We will report the results of the annual August 24 fundraising luncheon, and will outline volunteer opportunities for people with lots of time or hardly any. Literature on the various November measures will be available.

For the shopaholics among us, there will be **Good Citizenship Boutique** items available for purchase by cash or check. As another event will be taking place at the Church on September 27, please try to arrive early to ensure that you will be able to find space in the parking lot behind the building. We can use help setting up at 4 pm and cleaning up at 8:30 pm; please let me know if you are able to lend a hand.

Luanne Rogers, Program Vice President

BE PART OF THE VOTER SERVICE TEAM

Voting is a serious responsibility, and many parts of the process can be confusing. The League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville offers the following services to citizens of our three cities; all members and supporters are invited to help.

Voter registration: We'll be doing voter registration at the Solano Stroll on September 10. Volunteer for a 2-hour stint (beginning with set-up at 8 am, to 6 pm). We'll do the same at "How Berkeley Can You Be!?" on September 17, with 2-hour shifts beginning at noon.

Where else would you like to register voters – farmers' markets, public events, busy public locations? Monday, October 23, will be the last day to register to vote in November. *Phoebe Watts* will co-ordinate voter registration.

Our League distributes voter registration cards (year-round) to libraries, post offices and other public places. *Claudia Berger* is the coordinator.

Voter information: By the time this **VOTER** comes out, League members will have written and produced **Pros and Cons** about the local ballot measures, and the state will have done so for state ballot measures.

Beginning in September, many hands are needed to count out, bundle and deliver copies of these useful and popular publications. *Lessly Wikle* is organizing the writing and production, and many, many hands are needed for distribution, with *Phoebe Watts* coordinating.

League members form a **Speakers' Bureau** and prepare themselves to speak to groups about the pros and cons of ballot measures. Speakers' training will take place in early September. *Betty Hicks* will be in charge.

Candidates' forums: The League offers various opportunities for local candidates to reach the public. **Candidates' forums** will be produced at the Berkeley Community Media studio and shown numerous times on cable TV. Studio work will probably be on late

afternoons/early evenings on the 8th and 15th of September. *Jill Martinucci* is in charge.

League members organize forums at which candidates can speak to local groups (or sometimes the League produces such forums jointly with local groups). These meetings, which will take place in September and October, require schedulers, moderators, question sorters and timekeepers. *Phoebe Watts* will arrange the forums.

Together with the state League, we manage a website called SmartVoter.org, on which candidates can post information about themselves, and voters can find information about their ballots and polling places. *Sherry Smith* is [SmartVoter](http://SmartVoter.org) coordinator.

Our League also posts election information and handy links on our own website, <http://lwvbae.org>, managed by webmaster *Bill Chapman*.

To assist in any of these **Voter Service projects** or to get more information, call the LWVBAE office at 510/843-8824 and leave a message for any of the names above.

Phoebe Watts, Co-Vice President,
Election Services

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR *EVA BRECHER*

Friends and family of *Eva Brecher* will gather on October 14, Eva's birthday, for a celebration of her life. Please call the League Office in October for time and location. Eva was a longtime member who served on the League Board and in many League activities during her years in Berkeley. Eva and her family requested that memorial donations be made to the League in her name.

Ruthann Taylor

LWVC ENERGY POSITION APPROVED BY LWVC BOARD 7/16/06

Energy Position in Brief

The League supports development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency. State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open and transparent procedures.

Resource Adequacy

1. The state regulatory and planning agencies, as well as the energy providers, should give primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency. State regulation and planning should also address the critical need for demand-side management of peak power requirements including real-time pricing.

2. In acquiring new electric resources, major additional factors to consider include:

- a. The potential for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions,
- b. The development and deployment of renewable resources,
- c. The contribution to the diversity of the resource mix,
- d. The availability at times of peak power demand, and
- e. The level of support for base-load power requirements.

Integrated Energy Planning

3. The state should implement an integrated energy planning process that:

- a. Forecasts needs for transmission line and other energy infrastructure, including additional generation, storage, and investments in energy

efficiency and demand-side management,

- b. Establishes consistent statewide procedures for the set-aside of land that will be needed for future transmission corridors and other associated energy infrastructure, in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, and
- c. Streamlines procedures so that siting and permitting can be accomplished in a timely way.

Statewide Standards

4. Statewide standards should be set for renewable resource development, demand-side management procurements and reserve requirements.

5. These standards should be applied to all load-serving entities, including:

- a. Municipal utilities,
- b. Electric service providers, and
- c. Rural electric cooperatives, with accommodation made for any problems that might arise for small and/or rural providers.

Organizational Structure

6. The energy planning and regulatory process should be based on coordination of functions, as well as collaboration among the existing agencies. The regulatory responsibilities (i.e., rate-setting and rule-making) should be separated from planning and permitting functions.

Roles of the State

7. The state should regulate and oversee in-state energy facilities, including Liquefied Natural Gas terminals, through permitting, licensing, and enforcement of regulations for in-state and out-of-state providers.

8. The state should:
- Conduct forecasts to assure resource adequacy and system reliability,
 - Use economic/market and other incentives to foster renewable energy, conservation, demand-side management, and greenhouse gas reductions, and
 - Administer a public-interest research and development program.

Regional Planning

9. Decisions about implementation of the energy planning process should be made on a region-wide basis through a mechanism that incorporates participation by local governments.

Roles of Local Governments

10. Local governments should have responsibility to inform their citizens about developments in regional energy planning and to communicate local concerns to the regional planners.

11. Local governments should promote energy conservation, especially in relation to building codes, transportation, resource recovery, and public information.

Transparency in Decision-making

12. Greater transparency in energy policy decision-making should be promoted by:
- Effective noticing,
 - Use of open meetings and workshops, community outreach, including funding for meetings, and
 - Extensive use of communications technologies.

13. Given the importance of public participation, agencies should be required to use plain language in all communications,

proceedings, and publications.

Direct Access

14. Any direct-access (choice of a provider) policy should not result in additional costs to the remaining core customers.

15. Customers who leave the regulated system for a direct-access account should be required to pay a fair share of the costs their utility has incurred to serve them.

16. Customers who have left a regulated utility for a direct-access account and later wish to return, should be required to compensate for any negative effects their return will have on the regulated system.

Interrelationship of Energy and Water

17. Energy agencies and utilities should develop programs that will help the water sector reduce its very large consumption of electric power and fossil fuels.

18. Information about the impacts of water conveyance, treatment, and end use, including irrigation pumping, should be disseminated to the public.

19. Energy policy should recognize the important interrelationship between water use and energy use. Practices such as universal metering and economic incentives to shift load to off-peak hours should be considered.

20. Recognizing that a substantial portion of California's economy is based on agriculture, measures to reduce water-intensive crops and landscape plantings should be considered.

BOARD BRIEFS

At the regular meeting of the Board held on June 15, 2006, in response to a report presented by member *Helene Lecar* regarding a federal grant of \$1M awarded to Alameda County schools, the following Motion was passed:

THAT *HELENE LECAR* OPEN A CONVERSATION WITH THE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION WITH REGARD TO A CIVICS EDUCATION COMPONENT BEING INCLUDED IN THE RECENT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANT.

VP Program *Jo Ann Price* announced the Women's Suffrage Parade to be held in Sacramento on August 26, commemorating the passage of the 19th amendment; she added that the State League is too busy to participate. In response, the following Motion was passed:

TO CONTACT STATE TO SEE IF THEY HAVE THOUGHT ANY MORE ABOUT THE MATTER, AND IF *JACKIE JACOBBERGER* IS TOO BUSY, PERMISSION SHOULD GO OUT TO ALL LEAGUES.

Also:

WE WILL OFFICIALLY HAVE REPRESENTATION IF IT IS ALLOWED, AND IF WE HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO DO IT.

The meeting was adjourned with retiring president, *Sherry Smith*, handing the gavel to the incoming president, *Jinky Gardner*.

* * *

At the regular meeting of the Board on Saturday July 8, 2006, the first meeting under the presidency of *Jinky Gardner*, the following Motions were passed:

THAT THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WILL BE HELD ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, AT THE LEAGUE OFFICE, 7pm-9pm.

THAT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE BE HELD ON THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE HOME OF *PHOEBE WATTS*, BETWEEN 7:30pm-9pm.

Following the report of Treasurer *Eloise Bodine*, the following Motion was passed:

ACCEPTANCE OF *JINKY GARDNER, ELOISE BODINE, JANE BARRETT, AND LUANNE ROGERS* AS CHECK SIGNERS.

In her President's Report, Gardner stressed her continuing interest in civics education, and her interest in increasing membership.

Angharad Jones, Recording Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

Our warmest welcome to our newest members:

Barbara Dales
Maurice J. Schlatter
Roberta Schlatter

"KNOW YOUR BAY AREA" DAY

On Saturday, **September 16, 2006**, LWVBA will sponsor a 4-hour breakfast symposium entitled "**Challenges of Our Interdependent Water System**," which will focus on the politics of our water supply and the safety and security of our water systems; special attention will be paid to the Hetch Hetchy upgrades now under way. The featured speakers are: **Prof. David Sundling** of UC Berkeley; **Dana Haasz**, **Tony Irons** and **Tim Ramirez** of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; and **Bern Beecham** and **Nicole Sandkulla** of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency.

The program will take place in the Crystal Ballroom of the Marines' Memorial Club, 609 Sutter Street (at Mason), San Francisco (415/673-6672). Registration is at 9 am; the program will go from 9:30 am to 1 pm. Cost per person is \$17.50 for the breakfast and program. Reservations may be made by emailing treasurer@lwwba.lwwnet.org and mailing a check payable to LWVBA c/o *Tam Hege*, 80 Florada Ave., Piedmont, CA 94610. **Reservations must be made by September 9.** In-depth information on Bay Area water issues is available by clicking on 'Current Issue' at www.bayareamonitor.org.

Lights, Camera, ACTION!

Our reinvigorated Action Committee will be meeting regularly on the last Thursday of the month, at 7:30 pm in the League office. Come and see for yourself what we've all been up to.

At our first meeting, on July 27, *Anne Henderson* reviewed the 13 state propositions that have qualified for the November ballot and the positions that the state League has adopted.

As we go to press, there are 6 measures that also will be on the Berkeley ballot (including a resolution to impeach President Bush and Vice President Cheney) and a renewal of the Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act (BSEP) tax. There will be one measure for Albany.

Ursula Rolfe, our Public Health watchdog, reported on SB840, Sheila Kuehl's universal healthcare bill, which is working its way to the Assembly floor. Ursula handed out a list of Assembly members from districts around the state, and asked LWVBAE members to encourage friends in those districts to write their Assembly members and newspapers in support of the bill.

Ursula and *Nancy Bickel*, immediate past president of the League's Alameda County Council, brought us up to date on developments with regard to the Alameda County Medical Facility's certification and budget problems. Ursula reported that the new CEO, Mr. Lassiter, and his team are making some progress in addressing labor and budget problems. Middle managers are now held accountable for their budgets, and needed reductions in staff are being implemented as scheduled in this year's budget; total income has increased in recent months. Nancy and Ursula both agreed that budget and management practices at the facility will need ongoing monitoring. To find out more, contact ursularo@pacbell.net.

Pat Kuhi filled us in on issues affecting Juvenile Justice. Pat represents the League on Berkeley's Youth Safety Committee, now chaired by Lincoln Casimere. At the group's latest meeting, Julie Sinai from the Mayor's Office reported on efforts by Spanish-speaking parents to obtain easier access to social services available in the city.

The city has created a half-time position to coordinate and publicize the work of all the outreach programs already in operation.

Jinky Gardner reported on the first meeting of the Civics Action committee following adoption of our new Civics position. The committee will be looking at civics curricula used in other school districts and will be contacting our own districts to see if we can run a Mock Election this fall with the people-power available.

Helene Lecar reported on efforts to expand voter education and registration opportunities at the Peralta Community College District campuses.

Charlotte Lichterman, who follows women's issues on our agenda, reported on a Parade to be held in Sacramento on Women's Equality Day, August 26, to commemorate the courageous Suffragists who marched to get us the right to vote. Charlotte also reported that the LWV of CA is opposing Prop 85, which will be on the November ballot. This measure would require parental notification before a minor could terminate an unwanted pregnancy. The LWVC is currently developing a plan to work on this issue in coalition with other women's groups.

If you would like to help get the word out about Prop 85, notify Charlotte at clichty1@comcast.net.

Let us know what you do. Would you like to observe our city agencies in action? Berkeley's City Council and School Board broadcast their hearings on radio and BETV. If you would like to follow these hearings but don't care to stay out late, you can tape the proceedings, review them at your leisure, and give us the benefit of what you learn in an informal report. Just let us know.

Do you serve on a city advisory board or commission? What are the major issues your group addresses? We would be delighted to have you come share your expertise with us.

Our League is only as active as its members. Let us know what interests you!

Helene Lecar, Action Chair
hlecar1@ix.netcom.com
 (510) 549-9719



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

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CALENDAR

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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 \$65 Annual Dues made out to:
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BERKELEY, CA 94702-1509

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____ Eve: _____

FAX: _____ E-mail: _____

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

AUGUST

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|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 23 Wed. 7 pm | "Iron Jawed Angels" – Film
Suffrage Movement, w/Hilary Swank & Anjelica Huston
Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue | <i>M. Breunig, 549-0689</i> |
| 24 Thurs. 11:30 am–1:30 pm | Annual Community Luncheon
H ^s Lordship's, Berkeley Marina | <i>S. Chun, 843-7855</i> |
| 29 Tue. | Albany C. of C. Award to
<i>Ruth Ganong</i> (see p. 2) | <i>K. Carlson-Olson, 525-1771</i> |
| 31 Thurs. 7:30 pm | Action Committee, LWVBAE office | <i>H. Lecar, 549-9719</i> |

SEPTEMBER

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|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 4 Mon. | LWVBAE office closed for Labor Day | |
| 7 Thurs. 7-9 pm | Board Meeting, LWVBAE office | <i>J. Gardner, 548-5292</i> |
| 8 Fri. 5 pm | Deadline for October <i>VOTER</i> | <i>A. Kisch, 985-0651</i> |
| 10 Sun. 8 am-6 pm | Solano Stroll - Voter Registration
(volunteers needed for League table) | <i>P. Watts, 525-6614</i> |
| 11 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm | Environmental Concerns | <i>C. Stone, 549-0959</i> |
| 16 Sat. 9 am-1 pm | Know Your Bay Area Day
Marines' Memorial Club, San Francisco (see p. 6) | |
| 17 Sun. 12 noon | "How Berkeley Can You Be?"
Civic Center Park – Voter Registration
(volunteers needed for League table) | <i>P. Watts, 525-6614</i> |
| 27 Wed. 5-8:30 pm | LWVBAE Fall General Meeting (see pp. 1-2) | <i>L. Rogers, 559-1006</i> |
| 28 Thurs. 7:30 pm | Action Committee, LWVBAE office | <i>H. Lecar, 549-9719</i> |

OCTOBER

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|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 5 Thurs. 7-9 pm | Board Meeting, LWVBAE office | <i>J. Gardner, 548-5292</i> |
| 6 Fri. 5 pm | Deadline For October <i>VOTER</i> | <i>A. Kisch, 985-0651</i> |
| 9 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm | Environmental Concerns | <i>C. Stone, 549-0959</i> |
| 14 Sat. | Memorial Service for <i>Eva Brecher</i> (see p. 3) | |
| 23 Mon. | Last day to register to vote in November 7 election | |
| 26 Thurs. 7:30 pm | Action Committee, LWVBAE office | <i>H. Lecar, 549-9719</i> |