



THE

# VOTER

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE

1414 University Avenue, Suite D, Berkeley, CA 94702

Tel. (510) 843-8824 Fax (510) 843-8828 E-mail lwvbae@pacbell.net

President: Doris Fine

September, 1997

Editor: Bob Hawley

## Fall Membership Meeting

Thursday Evening, September 18, 1997, 5:30 to 9 PM  
Epworth Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins Street, Berkeley

### Meeting Program

5:30 pm: Supper and Social Hour. Supper costs \$10 or a contribution of salad, wine, or dessert. Make reservations to our office (843-8824) by September 15. Car pools and rides home will be arranged (upon request) when you sign up.

6:30 pm: Business meeting and preview of our plans for the 1997-98 year.

7:30 pm: An appreciation of local league members and friends who have been instrumental in the development of a state park on our bay shore.

8:00 pm: Speaker: Dwight Steele, "Our Eastshore State Park: Past, Present, and Future."

Dwight Steele, an attorney, has been a longtime chairperson of Citizens for an Eastshore State Park. He is an active member of the Sierra Club and, since its inception, of the Save San Francisco Bay Association.

All league members, prospective members, and friends are welcome. Join us for the social opportunity over supper (or come after supper, if you wish), to hear about upcoming League activities and to learn about where we are now and what's to come, with our very own new State Park.

-Phoebe Watts, Program VP

### Your Vote On Vote-By-Mail Is Needed On September 18 At Our Fall Membership Meeting

At our meeting on September 18, the Board will recommend for adoption the consensus from April UNITs in favor of holding local special elections by mail ballot. The consensus will also be incorporated into our Local Government Structure position. The Board will also recommend a major revision of our Bylaws (see Page 3). Please bring your 1997 Annual Meeting Notice to the meeting (mailed with the April Voter), as well as Bylaws, if you have a copy.

-Ginette Polak, Treasurer

## President's Message

Greetings. I hope that you have spent the summer relaxing and recharging energies for our upcoming program of activities. At our general membership meeting on September 18, you will have a preview of this year's local programs including education and environmental concerns. You will also hear about some of our activities, such as our video programs, our school volunteers, and our community services. There will also be updates on forthcoming State and National activities on such issues as Juvenile Justice, Welfare, and Campaign Finance Reform.

By the way, LWVBAE has a new e-mail address: **lwvbae@pacbell.net**. We hope soon to have a "homepage" on the Internet where you will find current information on LWVBAE and our programs, as well as links to information on State and National activities.

Speaking of links, our National program, "Making Democracy Work," now has a local focus: connecting high school youth to adults. In our community we learned, from several focus-style meetings with representatives of civic and business groups, that there is a felt need for more interaction between youth and adults. Many students feel isolated from their communities. And we know that one reason few young people participate in civic affairs, or even vote, is that they lack civic role models - adults who care about the community enough to reach out to youngsters struggling to find themselves in today's fast-paced and complex society. Our efforts locally, still in the formative stage, are aimed at seeking out and linking adults with high school students, initially through correspondence via letter or e-mail. I hope many of you will join us by offering to be a "pen pal" to students with questions about how government works, or how to prepare for various careers. By reaching out to a student in this way, you will send a message that as adults, we do care about young people and that we are willing to help them become the responsible citizens our future depends upon. Anyone interested in working with us as we get under way, please call me.

-Doris

## School Decision- Making and Lines Of Responsibility...A New Focus

The California Constitutional Review Commission, which recently finished its final report for the Governor and Legislature, recommends that changes be made in K-12 education which would focus accountability at both state and local levels. As the report points out, lines of accountability are blurred and citizens have difficulty knowing whom they should hold accountable for educational quality and results. The League was given credit for helping launch the study, and we want to assure that the issues highlighted by the report are addressed. This is an excellent time, we think, for our League to look into decision-making and responsibility within the BUSD. Who is accountable for what? We are very fortunate that *Irene Hegarty*, ex-member of BUSD's School Board, has agreed to help us look at our district's structure at our first meeting on **Wednesday, September 17, at 7 pm**. We anticipate further meetings with representatives of the present board, the advisory boards, the district and school administrations, teachers, parents and students.

### Continuing Interests

The committee will continue following issues of **early literacy** (monitoring district performance and test results), and efforts to **reform Berkeley High**. Committee members are active in literacy **tutoring**, the Concerned Citizens Committee (for BHS), and the development of a **School-to-Career** program at BHS.

### Volunteer Activities To Continue and Expand

Enthusiastic about Leaguers who volunteered as leaders of third grade literacy circles, the teacher at Leconte has asked for eight volunteers for this year, who could start in the second week of October. There will be optional great books training and a workshop for volunteers sometime in September. We will continue our volunteer program at Malcolm X, both with K-2 reading and Reading Recovery work with first graders. Similar reading volunteers will be needed in Albany. Anyone interested in volunteering in the Berkeley schools should contact *Anne Wallach* at 848-6893; an orientation/discussion session for old and new volunteers will be held at her home on Tuesday, September 9, at 10 am. Those interested in volunteering in Albany should contact *Jean Safir*.

-Continued On Page 5

## Vote On Study Consensus and Local Support Position Amendments

At our general meeting on **September 18**, our Board will recommend for adoption the consensus from April UNITs to hold special local elections by mail ballot. This consensus would also be incorporated into our Local Government Structure position. We announced both at our May 1997 Annual Meeting, but time precluded us from voting upon these issues. The wording of these proposals was also presented in the Summer 1997 LWVBAE Voter issue.

The consensus statement, as approved by our Board, applies to both Berkeley and Albany (but not to Emeryville) as follows:

***Local special elections should be held by mail ballot with return postage provided. Adequate time should be allowed for voters to become informed about the election and to return the mailed ballots. Procedures should be instituted to ensure widespread publicity and effective distribution of the ballots.***

In amending our Local Government Structure Support Position, our Board recommends inserting the above statement (in bold italics) as a new Number 5 of "A. City Charter." Current numbers 5-10 then become numbers 6-11. In the new 6 (**Criteria for selecting election dates should be....**), insert after the words Criteria for, "**deciding between mail ballot and polling place elections and.**" To the new 6e (Consolidate elections with other electoral bodies (national, state, county, other) add "**except when a mail ballot is more appropriate.**"

-Ginette Polak

## LWVBAE Video Production

This summer, the LWVBAE video group produced a half-hour talk show regarding Berkeley's district elections which was broadcast on Berkeley cable channel 25 (B-TV). The program will be rebroadcast on Thursday, September 4, at 8:30 pm; on Friday, September 5, at 7:30 pm; and on Saturday, September 6, at 2:30 pm. It is listed as "Video Feedback," the series collaborative with which the LWVBAE group is working. If you have comments, suggestions, or an inclination to volunteer, please call *Jill Martinucci*.

-Jill Martinucci, Video Director

## Vote On Bylaw Amendments On September 18

The Board recommends a major revision of our Bylaws. The Bylaws Revision Committee removed superfluous language, which reduced the document to half its former size and brought our Bylaws into conformity with the LWVUS model of Bylaws for Local Leagues as well as current practice. A copy of the proposed Bylaws is available in the League office where any member may study it or make a copy of it. With major restructuring and editing, the traditional format of crossing out deletions and inserting new language produced a document very difficult to read. However, a readable copy will be available at our September 18 General Meeting.

A few substantive amendments are recommended. They are:

1. The term of office for Directors shall start July 1, rather than immediately following the Annual Meeting.
2. Quorum for Board Meetings shall be one-third of the directors, rather than eight.
3. The Executive Committee shall include an additional member appointed by the President from the Board. If not appointed, the Treasurer shall serve ex-officio. Four members shall constitute a quorum.
4. Dues: A member who fails to pay dues within 60 days after the due date shall cease to be a member, unless an extension is granted by the Board.
5. Elections: For any office to which more than one candidate is nominated, the election shall be by written ballot. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected.
6. Member Action: A member may act in the name of LWVBAE only when authorized to do so by the Board and only in conformity with, and not contrary to, positions of LWVBAE, LWVBA, LWVC, and LWVUS.
7. Removal from office shall occur for malfeasance or partisan political activity as determined by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

No new amendments may be proposed at our September 18 meeting, but editing suggestions may be made.

Many thanks to committee members *Eleanor Cox*, *Ann Crowe*, and *Doris Fine*.

-Ginette Polak, Bylaws Rev. Committee



## Publications Corner



### The Initiative Process In California

This process is described in two excellent publications now on the publications shelf in the League office: **Democracy By Initiative** (1992 copyright), published by the California Commission on Campaign Financing, and **The Initiative Cookbook**, by Jim Shultz, published by the Democracy Center.

Both publications detail the history of the initiative in California which began in the early 1900s as a reform measure to counteract the Southern Pacific Railroad ("The Octopus") and its domination of the legislature, the courts, and the press. The ballot initiative process was designed as a "safety valve" which would enable the electorate to supplement the work of the legislature when it failed or refused to act. This process has gone far beyond the visions of the early progressives and then Governor Hiram Johnson and is now considered a "fourth branch of state government."

The California Commission on Campaign Financing reports that "significant, long-term and sweeping improvements must be made to California's initiative process," and it lists 20 well-researched recommendations for changes in the form of the initiative, and roles of the legislature and public.

In **The Initiative Cookbook**, Jim Shultz asks, "Why write about initiatives and why a 'cookbook'?" He says, "It doesn't matter what the issue, today in California it is through the ballot initiative that we debate and decide the biggest public questions of the day". Shultz holds that legislative inaction and political partisanship have deadlocked the process. Therefore, he asserts, he has published this very informative "cookbook" with detailed "recipes" from how to begin an initiative campaign to bringing it to a conclusion, beginning with advice on key questions to ask right from the start ("Does the public support you?"), to how to conduct polls, write a ballot measure, raise money, and mobilize supporters.

In addition to the recipes for cooking up an initiative, there are chapters on recent initiative campaigns and recommendations for reform. The book concludes with the thought that while the initiative process started because of the need for reform policies, today "nearly a century later (we ask)

do we still want the initiative...?" Mr. Shultz believes that even with its defects and abuses, the process is a way to deal with major issues left unattended by legislators and the Governor. He suggests that our attention needs to be directed toward "reform of the process" and obviously, as the recipes in this cookbook detail, the know-how to make the initiative process work for inexperienced people.

These publications should be read if you've ever groaned when you've looked at the number and types of ballot measures during each election. Review the recommended reforms. Do they address your concerns? What can the League do about them?

-Lenora Young, Publications Chair

### News You Can Use About Members and Membership

Our congratulations and best wishes to:

- *Regina Minudri* upon her appointment as Acting City Librarian, San Francisco Public Library,
- *Ruth Colby*, member and supporter since 1938,
- *Fanya Carter*, member and supporter since 1948,
- *Joyce Baldwin*, member and supporter since 1954,
- *Yvonne San Jule* in her new home and as Chairman of our Budget Committee,
- *Anne Henderson* upon her appointment as LWVC Legislative Director,
- *Pat Wadleigh* upon her appointment as LWVC Director, Membership Services North,
- *Rebecca Malley* who has moved to the Chicago area,
- *Orel Wolters* (up and about again),
- *Joan Berzins* (condolences upon your "aching back").

**Clerical Office Help Wanted:** One day each month (three hours) to transcribe names from receipts and to check roster for membership status. Call me or come to the office (on a Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm) to discuss.

We need news from members: new job, home, grandchild, awards, graduation, travel, published, promoted, ailing, needs TLC, etc. Leave a message for me at 843-8824, Fax me at 843-8828, or e-mail me at [lwvbae@pacbell.net](mailto:lwvbae@pacbell.net).

-Eleanor Cox, Membership Chair

## Status of Rent Controls

Our committee, which is reviewing the status of rent control in Berkeley, thought you might be interested in the following summary of recent changes in (1) the units under rent control, and (2) rent changes that are (or will be) legal.

In 1995, the California State Legislature passed the Costa-Hawkins bill which, as of January 1, 1996, removed 'vacancy control' from the five California cities whose rent control ordinances contained that protection. Under this legislation, a landlord gets to set a new market rent when a unit is legally vacated. The unit then reverts to rent control under the new rent until vacated again. In addition, as of July, 1996, single family homes which become vacant are no longer subject to rent control.

### Units Under Rent Control

#### A. Before Costa-Hawkins

All rental units were covered except some owner-occupied duplexes and units newly-constructed after 1980. Section 8 housing was also exempt.

#### B. Transition (July 1996 to January 1999)

All units previously covered except for single-family houses which become permanently exempt when legally vacated.

#### C. After Costa-Hawkins (January 1, 1999)

No change from the Transition period.

### Legal Rent Changes

#### A. Before Costa-Hawkins

Rents would be changed only by Annual General Adjustments (AGAs) determined by a Rent Board or by petitions to the Board.

#### B. Transition (July 1996 to January 1999)

Rents can be changed as before or by no more than 15 percent when legally vacated. This increase can occur only twice during this transition period.

#### C. After Costa-Hawkins (January 1, 1999)

Rents can be increased by AGAs or petitions. When a vacancy occurs, landlords can set any new rent.

-Doris Maslach, Rent Board Action Committee Chair

## Environmental Concerns for 1997/98

Our presentations for the coming year are almost in place. Our topics will be as involved as last year's with "sustainability", if sustainable planning means using our land, air, water and energy sources with the well-being of future generations in mind.

However, this year we also shall focus upon another set of sociological considerations:

- upgrading of the quality of life in the Bay Area,
- the power of design when we redesign old communities, and
- containment of urban sprawl and responsible planning when new development is needed.

In addition, we will discuss overpopulation in California, the closing of military bases around the Bay as they relate to the Public Trust Doctrine, and, of course, we shall celebrate the completion of the Eastshore State Park in September at our general membership meeting.

Some of the above items may be considered as pertaining to the concept of "Sustainable Communities," adopted as an Issue for Emphasis at the LWVC convention in San Diego last April.

-Erika Kunkel, Environmental Concerns

## Education Activities

(Continued From Page 2)

In addition, we are working with the Making Democracy Work committee to start a letter writing program at the high school.

Our committee welcomes new members interested in the above activities or who bring suggestions of their own, as well as any volunteers or Leaguers interested in attending our meetings.

-Lois Brubeck, Education Chair

## From the LWVBA Voter Know Your Bay Area Day September 27, 1997

The inter-relatedness of air and water quality with land use and transportation decisions will be explored at the **Know Your Bay Area Day** meeting on Saturday, September 27, 1997 at the **Hewlett Packard Auditorium, 5301 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino**. Expert panelists from the regional agencies involved in these decisions will be on hand to discuss the status of interagency coordination to achieve effective comprehensive plans that address these linkages.

Our value-packed program will open with an address by newly-elected LWVC President, Karyn Gill, and will include discussion panels, time for local leagues to share their regional issues, and state workshops.

Registration for this 9:30 am - 2:30 pm event will begin at 9 am, so come early to allow time for networking with your fellow League members.

Detailed driving directions will be sent to local leagues in the near future, along with registration forms, cost (if any), and information about lunch plans. Contact your local league office for more information.

-Jane Bergen, LWVBA

## The Circus Is Coming

The circus is coming to the **Know Your Bay Area Day** meeting on September 27. Cirque de League, that is! With ringmaster (a.k.a. Gail Dryden, LWVC Special Projects Director) leading the way, you can hear proposals for unique projects that will advance the goal of engaging your community in the democratic process. The lion tamer, otherwise known as LWVC Voter Service Director, Virginia Crespo, will give you an overview of voter service issues that will need taming in the coming months, and our circus clown will share ways to put the fun back in fundraising. (In another life, she goes by Charlene Smith, LWVC Development Director.) To help you work your way through complicated legislative issues, our tightrope walker will be on hand. Come, enjoy (and learn) at the Cirque de League - coming to the **Know Your Bay Area Day** meeting this fall.

-Gail Dryden, LWVBA

## "Greenplans"

The award-winning video documentary *Greenplans* was presented in April to the Environmental Concerns Committee by Resource Renewal Institute (RRI) vice president Peggy Lauer. The documentary shows how The Netherlands and New Zealand have taken the lead in developing plans for environmentally sound "green" development. The video complements the book "Green Plans" by RRI's president and founder, former California Secretary of Resources Huey Johnson, who was a keynote speaker at the LWVC April 1997 Convention in San Diego. "Green Plans" refers to long-term, comprehensive strategies designed to achieve environmental sustainability.

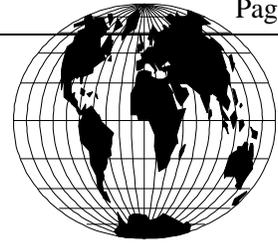
RRI is a nonprofit organization whose focus is to advocate the implementation of Green Plans in the United States and worldwide. In addition to offering educational materials such as newsletters, books and tapes, RRI's Green Plan Center (GPC) is a networking reference facility that assists government officials, business leaders, academics and citizens in making informed decisions. The GPC tracks environmental policy worldwide, with a focus on developments that affect green planning. The GPC maintains an extensive library and World Wide Web site (<http://www.rri.org/urbancenters/>) with comprehensive links to sustainable community initiatives around the world.

For more information contact RRI at 415-945-3774 or 415-945-1650.

-Gail Schickele, Environmental Concerns

LWVBA extends our deep sympathy to the family of long time League member and benefactor, *Madeleine E. Traynor*, who died peacefully in Berkeley on August 12 at the age of 91. A longer obituary will follow in our next *Voter*.

## LWVBAE September UNIT Update Or New Study? Getting Down To Business On LWVUS' United Nations Position



LWVBAE will hold only one September UNIT meeting: **Wednesday evening, September 24 at 7:30 pm**, in the Parlor of the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (Berkeley). The topic will be "Should LWVUS update its present United Nations position (last updated in 1977) in specific areas by consensus at the 1998 National Convention OR undertake a restudy of the entire position?"

An LWVUS United Nations Task Force was created after the 1996 LWVUS convention to study several distinct areas of the UN with the intent of bringing timely information to all local Leagues so that appropriate sections of the LWVUS position on the UN could be updated by consensus at the 1998 biennial convention. In March, 1997, LWVBAE held a UNIT to address these concerns: Is reform of the UN in order and should LWVUS update its position in order to "become a player" in the national debate on UN reform? Those present agreed overwhelmingly on both counts.

The lead Leagues in this effort are Washington, DC, Montgomery County, MD, Chicago, IL, Seattle, WA, and Marin County, CA. More than forty other local Leagues are involved and interested. In the process of studying the agreed upon area, some Leagues have concluded that a complete restudy of the position is merited and want to submit this proposal to the 1998 convention. Others prefer to stick with the original task and bring the proposed update of the position by consensus to the convention, but are willing to support a restudy if the consensus motion fails.

LWVUS' United Nations position is a very important one, particularly at this historic moment when many nations strongly desire reform of both the structure and substance of the UN. The US predicated paying its significant arrears on the Secretary General's making specific changes. Although our position allows the League to lobby on behalf of the US paying what it owes, it doesn't support our getting involved in the reforms we might deem appropriate, e.g., peace keeping and structural changes.

Reports in the areas studied by the LWVUS UN Task Force will be summarized and given by interested LWVBAE members at our UNIT. The pros and cons of consensus on specific issues versus a complete restudy will be presented for discussion.

Come and be informed on this topic which is pivotal to the foreign policy issues facing the US and to the future peace of the world. We need you there to help our local League decide where it will come down on this issue which is so important to LWVUS and to our nation.

Should you want background information prior to the meeting, you may pick it up at the office or have it sent if you request it by September 19. Please call the office at 843-8824 if you need a ride.

*-Jo Ann B. Price, Action VP*

### The Solano Stroll

The annual Solano Stroll is scheduled for Sunday, September 14, from 10 am to 6 pm. The League will have a table and be in the parade. This is an excellent time for us to help register voters and to make our literature available. We will have two volunteers covering the table throughout the day. If you are interested in spending an hour or two at the table (we plan to have two volunteers at all times), call *Karen Carlson-Olson*. If you want to strut your stuff in the parade, call *Eloise Bodine*.

*-Lois Brubeck, Education*

# CALENDAR

## August

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

27 Wed. 9:30 am Executive Committee (Fine)

## September

3 Wed. 9 am Board Meeting South Berkeley Library (Fine)  
 5 Fri. 4 pm Voter Deadline League Office  
 9 Tues. 10 am Literacy Volunteers (Wallach)  
 14 Sun. 10 am to 6 pm Annual Solano Stroll Solano Avenue (Bodine)  
 17 Wed. 9 am Action Committee (Price)  
 17 Wed. 7 pm Education Committee (Brubeck)

## 18 Thurs. 5:30 pm Fall Membership Meeting

Epworth Methodist Church  
 1953 Hopkins Street

RSVP to the League Office (843-8824) by September 15 for supper reservations

24 Wed. 9 am Executive Committee (Fine)  
 24 Wed. 7:30 pm UNIT Meeting on United Nations  
 Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (Price)  
 27 Sat. 9 am to 2:30 pm **Bay Area League Day** (meeting in Cupertino) (San Jule)

## October

3 Fri. 9 am Board Meeting South Berkeley Library (Fine)



### IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Just cut out and mail this coupon  
with your \$41 dues check to:

LWVBAE

**1414 University Ave., Suite D**  
**Berkeley, CA 94702**

Joining at the local level makes you a  
member at all levels: BAE, Bay Area, State  
and National.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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