



THE V O T E R

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE

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President: Doris Fine

September, 1998

Editor: Bob Hawley

Fall Membership Meeting

Thursday Evening, September 24, 1998,
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Northbrae Community Church,
941 The Alameda, Berkeley

Program

5:30 pm: Supper and Social Hour. Supper costs \$10, catered by Shai's Delicatessen. Make reservations for supper by calling the office (843-8824) by September 18. Car pools and rides home will be arranged, if requested when you sign up. Send payment to the office or bring it with you to the meeting.

6:30 pm: Business meeting and preview of League activities planned for the 1998-99 year. Find out what we're doing, and get involved.

7:30 pm: Speaker: Pat Engelhard, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services, Alameda County Social Service Agency. She will address the meeting on the subject of the Juvenile Justice System, drawing on her extensive background in welfare benefit programs and children's protective services. Her talk is especially timely for the League, since we will be holding two consensus UNITs during the first week of October on this same subject (see next column).

All League members, prospective members and friends are invited to attend. Join us for the social hour over supper, or come after supper for the business meeting and speaker.

-Jean Safir, Program VP

October UNIT Meetings

The California Juvenile Justice System
- Part II: Dependency
Issues of Child Abuse, Neglect and
Foster Children

Background

We are now ready to seek consensus on the second part of a study of Juvenile Justice. The first concerned delinquency. In April, 1997, the LWVC Convention adopted a Juvenile Justice Position covering the Juvenile Justice System and that part of the California Juvenile Court which deals with delinquency issues. It then voted to continue the study for two more years to look at child abuse, neglect and foster children and that part of the Juvenile Court and governmental agencies which deal with these problems.

Issues

Since 1997 LWVC has lobbied on seventeen Juvenile Justice bills before the California legislature. However, without further consensus we cannot cover some very important issues such as:

- child deaths and serious abuse of children left with their parents;
- children living with drug or alcohol addicted parents;
- foster children who never find a permanent home and may have as many as six placements in twelve years;
- the failure of foster children to cope when they leave the system at the age of 18;
- the lack of coordinated efforts of the County Juvenile Justice and Dependency Systems when foster children become delinquent;
- the need for reform of the Juvenile Court system.

-(Continued on Page 6)

President's Message

Our Board held a successful planning meeting on July 8, followed by a social gathering and lunch. We reviewed possible "issues for emphasis," including Membership, Voters Service, and Program, and agreed that all of our activities should relate to all three areas. We can interest new members and involve our current membership by including them in our Voters Service and Program activities. Likewise, as we provide our pre-election services to the community, reaching out to new and diverse groups of citizens, we can encourage them to join us. Finally, studies are an exciting opportunity for current members and a vehicle for attracting new members as well. We are now committed, as Board Members, to include consideration of all three areas in whatever particular responsibility we pursue.

In addition, we agreed on the local level to continue our advocacy favoring reforms in the planning and budget processes of the Berkeley City Council. Televised interviews with the City Manager, our op ed article in the *Oakland Tribune*, and letters to the Council resulted in the adoption of a revised budget calendar for 1998-99 plus promises by the Council's Rules Committee to hold orientation sessions for staff and Council members on the Brown Act. We also recommended review of the City Charter provisions delineating the respective roles of staff and Council. Our hope is that the Rules Committee will also undertake a review of Boards and Commissions: their mandates, time lines and efficacy.

The two faces of League - education and advocacy - should come together this year as we gear up for the November election. We will be conducting local candidates' forums to facilitate public familiarity with the candidates AND we will be asking some hard questions as to where they stand on needed reforms in city government.

This is the time to get involved - join a study (there will even be on-line studies for those who prefer to study on their own time), become familiar with the ballot arguments at our speakers' bureau training, help us reach out to a broader community with our pros & cons, volunteer in our office where you will learn how to access the Internet for voter information. We will be calling everyone soon and setting up a telephone tree to facilitate communication on local as well as state and national Calls to Action.

Do you want America to be
A better place to live?
Just talking won't improve it-
We also have to give.

Can you find yourself among
The workers, not the floaters?
If not, get involved and work with us,
Your League of Women Voters!

-Doris

August Board Briefs

At its August 5 meeting, the Board:

- voted to increase our Reserve Fund by the 1997/98 budget surplus of \$3844;
- voted to request support from the LWVB Foundation for educational activities in our 1998/99 budget;
- discussed plans for the Fall Membership Meeting, UNITS, the Solano Stroll, Voters Service, Mock Elections, SmartVoter, Know Your Bay Area Day, Housing Local Study, and Membership Committee;
- ratified the Executive Committee's decision to sign Berkeley ballot arguments to support two education measures on BSEP appropriation limits and its 2002 election, and to support a local gross receipts tax on goods sold in stores that sell guns and ammunition;
- prepared to decide in September whether to support or to oppose any other local ballot measures;
- evaluated the July 8 Planning Meeting;
- heard reports of LWVBAE's successful Berkeley actions and LWVUS's and LWVC's Action Alerts on campaign financing and on Gov. Wilson's tax cut proposals;
- approved consent items (minutes and financial report;)
- learned which articles were planned for the next *Voter*.

-Ginette Polak, Acting Secretary

Election - November 3, 1998

The League does many things; but at election time, voter education pops to the top of the list. Voter education includes providing speakers to community groups about ballot measures, sponsoring candidates' forums, distributing printed materials and voter registration forms. To accomplish these tasks, we need YOU!

Speakers: Being trained as a speaker is a big confidence builder. Past speakers have gone on to be active in politics or to fill bigger roles in our Leagues, but everyone who participates enjoys the contact with community groups who want to learn about ballot measures. Since we always present both sides of issues, speakers learn objectivity as well as skill in public speaking. There will be a training session for prospective speakers on **Thursday, September 17, at 7 pm** at 1925 Hopkins Street, Berkeley. **Call Meda Rechen for information.**

Distribute Pros and Cons: We provide written material explaining state and local ballot measures. Take some copies to places in your neighborhood, or to your club, church, or neighbors. Or, deliver materials to addresses we provide. **Call the office to volunteer.** Even one hour of work will help! Materials will be available in the third week of September.

Candidates' Forums: There are many tasks, large and small, that go into presenting candidates at a public meeting or on television. Be a timekeeper, question sorter, runner or host at a public meeting. Or help behind the scenes. **Call Phoebe Watts, or the LWVBAE office.**

The League of Women Voters has built a reputation in the community as a place where citizens expect to get answers to their questions about issues, ballots, and polling places. No one in the League knows all the answers, but working together, we can assemble this jigsaw puzzle called "Voters Service" if each of us does a small part. Call to volunteer!

-Phoebe Watts, Voters Service
-Meda Rechen, Speakers Bureau

Mock Election Plans

The Mock Election committee is exploring various possibilities for the fall election. At present, we have decided to offer a full mock election at Emeryville high school and to help those teachers at the Albany and Berkeley high schools who want to have some election focus - whether it be mock election or interviews with candidates, background on issues, or more general election information. Since the League will be sponsoring candidates' forums, we hope that some students will, at least, come to hear school board candidates and perhaps assist in formulating questions and reporting on the forums. While we had a fine welcome from the new principal at Berkeley High School, and are eager to pursue the mock election, Leaguers' energies will be stretched in these next few months in preparing and presenting voter information and arranging candidates' forums. All those interested in working with us in any way are most welcome. Please contact *Anne Wallach*.

-Lois Brubeck, Education

"Empowering The Voter" Conference

On Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13, members are invited to attend a conference in San Francisco to learn about the basics of proportional representation, reapportionment and voting system reform. The conference is cosponsored by the Center for Voting and Democracy and the Northern California Citizens for Proportional Representation.

After registration at 8:30 am on Saturday, the keynote speaker will address issues of race and reapportionment reform. Panels will cover such subjects as "PR and Campaign Finance Reform," "Representation of Women," "PR Around the World" and "The Courts and Reform." Sunday workshops will be devoted to speaker training and organizing local campaigns to spread the word on voting system reform.

The conference will be held in San Francisco at the California State Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister. The cost is \$30 for the full weekend and \$20 for one day (breakfast and lunch included.) After 9/1, these registration costs go up to \$40 and \$25, respectively. For more information, contact Steven Hill of the Center for Voting and Democracy at (415) 665-5044, or call me.

-Jean Safir, Program VP

Donors Through July, 1998

General Fund

Frances Brown *James Lindsay*
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Members and Membership

Bits and Help Wanted

We recently received notice from LWVUS of persons who have joined the League through the National office and whose memberships have been transferred to LWVBAE. Those new members and new members who have joined LWVBAE locally are:

Richard Abrams *Helen Grossman*
Dr. Georgia Babladelis *Eric Loren*
Willa K. Baum *Martha Luehrmann*
Wanda K. Bronson *Laura Magani*
Patricia Byrnes *Alice Mead*
Elaine A. Chandler *William Mitchell*
Rev. Patricia E. DeJong *Ronald L. Mock*
Stephen P. Diliberto *Polly Rosenthal*
Sally Elliot *Gloria Sieradzki*

A very hearty welcome to each and all 18 of you. Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, September 19** (Orientation meeting for new and potential members), and for **Thursday, September 24** (Fall Membership meeting.) See the calendar page for times and places of these and other League gatherings. We look forward to seeing and greeting you at all League functions.

Bits

Taking a well-earned vacation in Michigan:

Marion Luten

Traveling through northern Canada:

Mina Jenner

Our warmest wishes to *Lauriel Anderson*, a League member since 1974, that every day, in every way, you are getting better and better. *Lauriel* is now at home after treatment in a rehabilitation center following a stroke she suffered in May.

Help Wanted

Do you go to the Berkeley Main or West Library?
 Meet in a church or temple? Wander through UCB

campus? Do aerobics at a YMCA? Visit City Hall now and then? Before you go, please stop by the office and pick up several Voters and JOIN pamphlets to take with you. Be considerate and courteous - ask for permission before you leave the League publications. Thank you in advance for your help with getting out the League message.

-*Eleanor Cox*, Membership Chair

Our condolences to the family of *Sondra Kennedy-Harris* who died on July 30, 1998. *Sondra* recently served as a literacy volunteer at Malcolm X school.

Call For Oral History Transcribers

LWVBAE can now offer a higher honorarium for transcription services - \$125 per interview. Oral History interviews needing transcribers include:

Felicia Bock (League activist in International Relations;)

Pat Wadleigh (former League president with an impressive list of accomplishments with the League;)

Bea Fraenkel-Conrat (former League president who worked on various City of Berkeley commissions and is a UC Berkeley scientist.)

You need to have a home computer for typing. The League will loan you a tape recorder and foot pedal to be used for transcription. We have approximately 2 hours of tape per interview, and it takes around 8 hours of transcription for one hour of tape. TRY IT - YOU'LL LIKE IT!

Contact me directly, or leave me a message at the LWVBAE office. -*Therese Pipe*, Oral History

The Solano Stroll

Sunday, September 13, 10 am - 6 pm

LWVBAE will again have a table on Solano Avenue where we will focus on registering voters and distributing League information. We will have two volunteers covering the table throughout the day. If you are interested in spending an hour or two at the table (and eyeing the passing scene), call me at 525-8341.

-*Lassie Ulman*, Community Services VP



Publications Corner

California's Bay- Delta The Problem, the Process and the Potential

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program was initiated in 1995 and represents a collaborative effort among federal and state agencies, as well as the state's leading urban, agricultural and environmental interests to address and resolve the environmental and water management problems associated with the Bay-Delta system. The Program has now issued a DRAFT Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and statement concerning their work.

Prior to the formation of this group, single purpose projects were undertaken to improve the health of the ecosystem or to maintain and improve delta levees. The CALFED approach recognizes that problems in one resource area affect all areas of the Bay-Delta system. This expanded approach to solving problems of the Bay-Delta also includes expanding the geographical area to include the Central Valley watershed, the Southern California water service area, San Pablo and San Francisco Bays, near-shore portions of the Pacific Ocean to the Farallon Islands and north to the Oregon border.

It was determined that there are some "common program elements" which must be addressed: levee system integrity, water quality, ecosystem restoration, water use efficiency, watershed management, and water transfers. Storage and conveyance of water are additional elements to be considered.

These common elements form the basis of three alternative proposals to be considered in the draft environmental impact report and statement. No preference has been made for any proposal; this will be determined by technical staff and public working committees, looking at criteria such as benefits to water quality, impact on fish and wildlife, total cost, and operational feasibility. The final report which will identify a preferred alternative may be ready this fall. While development of each element by itself will help, a final solution should encompass all elements agreed to by the participants and should also determine the best areas and ways to store and convey water.

Why is it important to develop a long range plan to protect the Bay-Delta? Consider the following:

- It is a drinking water supply for 22 million Californians.
- It is necessary for the state's key industries, including agriculture which produces 45 percent of the nation's fruits and vegetables.
- It is the largest habitat on the west coasts of North and South America of plants and animals unique to our planet.
- It supports one of the country's richest commercial fisheries.
- It is part of the Pacific flyway over which migratory birds travel.
- It is part of the watershed which is used by the state's two largest water distribution systems - the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project (a federal project) - as well as by at least 7000 other permitted water districts.

A copy of the draft environmental impact report and statement is available in the League office. You may also write to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155, Sacramento, CA 95814, for a copy or for additional information.

-Lenora Young, Publications Chair

An Orientation Meeting for New, Not- So- New, and Potential Members

This meeting will be held on Saturday, September 19, at the LWVBAE office, 1414 University Avenue, Suite D. The entrance is in the corner of Andronico's parking lot next to the store entrance.

The meeting will begin promptly at 10 am and will last until 12 noon.

Please let us know that you will attend by September 17 by phone (843-8824), fax (843-8828), or e-mail to lwvbae@pacbell.net.

-Eleanor Cox, Membership Chair

October UNITS - Juvenile Justice System

(continued from Page 1)

Present plans for our members

We are very fortunate to have a highly informed and vital speaker, Patricia Engelhard, to address us on this subject at our Fall Membership Meeting on September 24. She is director of Alameda County's Department of Children and Family Services. With our UNIT meetings following in early October, we should be able to focus clearly on the consensus questions regarding program, reform and funding. There is also an excellent, highly readable book, Somebody Else's Children: the Courts, the Kids, and the Struggle to Save America's Troubled Families, by John Hubner and Jill Wolfson, which, through personal stories of the children caught up in the Juvenile Justice system in Santa Clara County, well describes the dependency system. Study information will also be available on the LWVC website at www.ca.lwv.org.

UNIT meetings will be held as follows:

- Tuesday, October 6, 7-9 pm, at the home of *Peggy Anne Davis*, 1116 Walnut St.;
- Thursday, October 8, 10-12 noon, at the Edith Stone Room, Albany Library, Marin Ave. and Masonic.

-*Lois Brubeck*, Local Study Committee Chair

A Message From Your Voter Editor

I have two requests to make of members who create *Voter* articles.

1. Please put your name and League title (if any) at the end of your submissions so that I will not have to call around to properly identify you.
2. If you type your article on a computer that has e-mail capabilities, please send your article to me via e-mail (mrhawley@worldnet.att.net) so I don't have to retype what you have already typed. If you don't have e-mail, please put your article on a disk together with a printed copy and put both in my folder at the League office (I'll get your disk back to you.) If you have computer compatibility questions, please call me and we can discuss how best to get your work to me and into the *Voter*.

-*Bob Hawley*, *Voter* Editor

Call For Study Participants: The Housing Study in Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville

At the 1998 annual meeting, members of

LWVBAE decided to do a study of housing in our three cities. The purposes of the study are two-fold: (1) to expand our position on housing to the three-city area, and (2) to arrive at recommendations for the housing policies of each city. The scope includes the supply of housing, affordability to those who live, work or study in the area, and other housing policies and actions.

Last year's Rent Board study found that while the population and number of housing units have increased in Albany and Emeryville since 1970, the city of Berkeley has registered decreases in both categories. Since all three cities have limited space for development, it is essential that housing policies be developed to determine how much housing it is reasonable to build, where it should be located, and for whom it should be built and priced. While Berkeley is more than 8 years late in updating its master plan, including the housing element, the status of information in Albany and Emeryville is not now known to us. But it is clear that the three-city area shares the Bay Area problem of too little affordable housing, either to rent or to buy, for those who seek to live here. The Oakland League has recently completed a study which will be valuable for us, and the State League is beginning a statewide study.

It is anticipated that our study will take two years, with the first devoted to fact finding, both documentary and through interviews and hearings with groups and individuals throughout the community. The second year we will develop a consensus updating our Berkeley position and expanding it to cover Albany and Emeryville. There will be regular monthly meetings for sharing findings, and at least one progress report to our membership in the coming year.

We are in need of more heads-and-hands for the work ahead and encourage all who share an interest in this critical problem to come aboard. We most particularly hope that newer members from all three cities will find this a challenging project for their participation in the League.

An organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3 at 7:30 pm at the home of *Suzanne Adams*, 118 Parkside Drive, Berkeley (off Claremont).
-*Doris Maslach*, Housing Study

Highlights of the LWVUS 43rd National Convention

LWVBAE members *Doris Fine, Jean Safir, Jo Ann Price, Lois Brubeck, Doris Maslach, Pat Kuhi* and *Jane Bergen* were among the 1000 League delegates and observers who gathered June 13-16 in San Diego. Every two years, LWVUS conducts a national convention to adopt a program and elect members of the Board. This year, the program adopted, based upon recommendations from local Leagues, was a continuation of MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK: SEEKING CHANGE. Other program proposals were considered and several received considerable support, but the majority of delegates agreed that more attention was needed in communities around the country to improve voter participation, increase civic education, reform the financing of campaigning, increase diversity among our elected officials, and, last but perhaps most important, improve civic participation. These are the key components of the program all state and local Leagues have agreed to work on.

“We want change, not just better informed citizens. We want to empower others (not just our members) to shape better communities...” This now becomes the rallying cry for LWVBAE in all its activities during the next two years. LWVUS will offer assistance by providing materials on training candidates for office, for “effective office holding” and for skills needed to organize and be effective on local issues. But it will be up to our League to use the materials to empower citizens to make changes and to improve the quality of civic life.

Two speakers - Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant attorney general for Civil Rights, and Anita Perez Ferguson, president of the National Women’s Political Caucus - addressed the convention and spoke to the need to continue our efforts to improve opportunities for minorities and women to have effective representation, and to achieve political office (currently, only 1 in 5 state legislators is a woman, and representation in Congress is even lower.)

Discussions on the Future Plan, which has been developed over the past 2 years with local input and national surveys, focused upon the need both to increase and diversify membership; recruit younger people; change our emphasis, meeting times and means of communication to adapt to the needs and lifestyles of working people. These were among the

recommendations which will now be considered. A final plan will be adopted next year.

Given declining membership nationally, the convention agreed to support LWVUS by increasing the PMP (per member payment) starting next year, 1999-2000, from \$19 to \$21. (This is the amount of your dues that we give to LWVUS. We also provide support to LWVC and LWVBA. WARNING! Your dues may have to increase next year to maintain our local services.)

A heartfelt tribute was paid to outgoing president Becky Cain for her 6 years of devoted service on behalf of the LWVUS. Newly elected president Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, despite the unexpected death of her mother during the convention, returned to give a rousing address, promising to maintain the momentum of the delegates for action to implement our program, and to make the LWV a national beacon for all those concerned with improving government.

Since the convention, League members nationally have been seeking ways to implement some of the programs that could not be adopted, in particular, programs involving studies. Budget constraint was the key obstacle to adopting a restudy of the United Nations, for example, but those interested are considering doing the study on-line, sharing materials, discussion questions, and possibly reaching a consensus that could be adopted by concurrence at the next national convention. Other subjects for possible (unofficial) national study include proportional representation, social security and medicare reforms, drug policy and education. The Piedmont LWV was successful in obtaining concurrence to add to our present gun control position the following: “The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.” Pursuing a study on-line (with printed materials available) will be an adventure for League members, but if not us, who? After all, we have been pioneers before and we can do it again.

More - much more - information on the convention is available in the office, and for personal feedback, just ask us. Those fortunate enough to attend would love to talk about our experiences. It was a wonderful meeting, and we came away proud to be members of this organization.

-Doris Fine, President

CALENDAR

August

- 24 Mon. 2 pm Mock Election Com. (Wallach)
- 26 Wed. 7:30 pm Executive Committee (Fine)

September

- 1 Tue. 7 am - 8 pm Special Election for State Senate District 9 (Office, 843-8824)
- 2 Wed. 9 am Board Meeting So. Berkeley Library (Fine)
- 3 Thurs. 7:30 pm Housing Study (Maslach)
- 4 Fri. 4 pm Deadline for October Voter at the LWVBAE office
- 13 Sun. 10 am - 6 pm Solano Stroll (Ulman)
- 14 Mon. 7:15 pm Environmental Concerns Meeting (Bansner)
- 16 Wed. 9 am Action Committee (Price)
- 17 Thurs. 7 pm Speakers Bureau Training (Rechen)
- 19 Sat. 10 am New & Prospective Member Orientation
1414 Univ. Av.(Office) (Cox)

24 Thur. 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (Safir)

- 26 Sat. 9 am - 2 pm LWVBA Know Your Bay Area Day
PG&E Auditorium, 851 Howard St., SF (San Jule)
- 29 Tue. 9 am Executive Committee (Fine)

October

- 6 Tue. 7 - 9 pm Juvenile Justice UNIT (Brubeck)
- 7 Wed. 9 am Board Meeting So. Berkeley Library (Fine)
- 8 Thurs. 10 am - 12 noon Juvenile Justice UNIT
Albany Library, Marin at Masonic, Albany (Brubeck)
- 9 Fri. 4 pm Deadline for November Voter at LWVBAE office
- 21 Wed. 9 am Action Committee (Price)
- 28 Wed. 9 am Executive Committee (Fine)

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -



IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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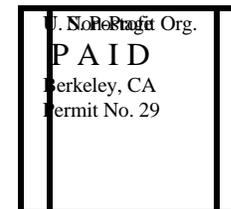
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Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible.
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Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville
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Berkeley, CA 94702



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E-mail: lwvbae@pacbell.net

The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The LWV does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. It does, however, take action on selected governmental issues in the public interest. Members are encouraged to attend all scheduled meetings.

A member of the **League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville (LWVBAE)** automatically becomes a member of the Bay Area, California, and United States Leagues. The League at all levels is a grassroots organization. It is through participation in the local League that members determine, directly or indirectly, League policies and the action to implement those policies.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 1998-99 Board is composed of 18 members: 8 Officers and 10 other Directors

Doris Fine, President
Jo Ann Price, Action VP
Marion Luten, Administration VP
Lassie Ulman, Community Services VP
Karen Nelson, Development VP
Jean Safir, Program VP
Violet Feinauer, Secretary
Ginette Polak, Treasurer

Charlotte Bernardin, State/National	Yvonne San Jule, LWVBA Representative
Lois Brubeck, Education	Sally Severance, UNIT Chair
Eleanor Cox, Membership	Carol Voisin, Voters Service
Ruth Ganong, Albany Representative	Pat Wadleigh, Management Training
Doris Maslach, Housing Study	Lenora Young, Publications

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Miriam Hawley, Chair Eleanor Cox Louise Larson Winifred McLaughlin

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY FOUNDATION

This organization, separate from LWVBAE, was set up in 1992 to receive tax-deductible gifts. Its funds may be spent only on educational activities. The Board meets quarterly. Directors are:

Fran Packard, President	Heidi Gillies, Treasurer
Ann Crowe, Vice President	Marilyn Couch, Secretary

Pat Kuhi, Liaison to the LWVBAE