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President: Nancy Bickel

October, 2002

Editor: Jean Safir

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## Election Day – November 5

In just about a month we will all be voting on the new touch-screen voting machines in Alameda County — no more chads!

This year the League is reaching out in new directions with our election services. We will be distributing our printed materials and voter registration cards at food banks, free meal sites and homeless shelters, in addition to libraries, community centers and other public buildings. And we are investigating ways we can work with “Youthvote,” a national campaign to get more 18-to-24 year-olds to register and vote.

League members have written Pro and Con articles about the local ballot measures, in a short format, using a simpler vocabulary than we have used in the past, and these have been put together into a printable document by *Marylyn Coons*. Other members have prepared themselves to speak about the ballot measures to community groups. Candidates’ forums have been organized. We’ve sat at tables at “Destination Telegraph” and at the Solano Stroll. Voter registration materials have been distributed, and many new voters have been registered.

Thank you, thank you to all who have helped so far. Your names will be in the *Voter* after Election Day.

There is still much to be done. Voter registration goes on until October 21. *Pros and Cons* (for both State and local measures) and *Easy Reading Voter Guides* must be distributed; helpers are needed at candidates’ meetings; there are phone calls to be made and we need extra staffing at the office on Election day and the day before. Please call me if you can help! (525-6614 or 843-8824).

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Another way to help is to sign up to be a poll worker. You must attend a training class, and be able to work from 6:30 a.m. until approximately 9:30 p.m. on November 5 — or split a shift with someone you know. For information call the county Registrar of Voters at 510-272-6971 or go to their Web site at:  
<[www.co.alameda.ca.us/rov/workers.htm](http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/rov/workers.htm)>

-*Phoebe Watts*, Election Services vice-president

## BOARD BRIEFS

At its September 4th meeting, the Board:

- voted to support the state League's proposal for Directors & Officers insurance;
- voted to send a letter to the Peralta Community College District trustees and chancellor about recruiting foreign students through the Overseas English Institute in Hainan, China;
- discussed plans for League meetings and Election Services;
- reviewed the status of League Action for the November election on local, county, and state ballot measures;
- supported the teaching of citizenship at all grade levels to implement the first goal of the State Master Plan for Education; and
- heard reports on other League activities.

-Ginette Polak, Secretary

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDY

### Mark Your Calendars

Our Community College System State Study Consensus **Units** will take place on Tuesday, **November 19**, and Tuesday, **December 10**, from 10:30 to 12:30 at the Berkeley Main Public Library Conference room. Also, don't forget to join the Groundbreaking for the new Vista College building on Wednesday, **October 23**, in the afternoon at the new site, 2020 Center Street in Berkeley.

### Interviews with Peralta Board of Trustees

Our Community College Study committee interviewed the Peralta Trustees again this spring and summer. Chancellor Temple also responded.

1.A. Q: How did last year's budget cuts affect the Peralta District? A: The District used its large reserve (above the legal requirement) to maintain student services and did not fund vacant faculty positions, saving about \$1.8 million of the \$4 million shortfall. Most of the rest came from a \$3 million payment from CalTrans for the use of a District building.

1.B. Q: Peralta has experienced a big growth spurt (15%) over the 3% cap the state pays for. How will the District deal with the unfunded enrollment?

A: By increasing classroom productivity [bigger classes] and exerting tighter controls on

expenditures, but this can only serve in the short term. If the District can keep its higher enrollment for 3 years, that larger number becomes the base from which state funding is calculated, and the District will get more money. The real problem will be next year's budget.

2. Q: Since the state budget shortfall is so big, cuts will have to come somewhere. What cuts would have the least impact on students?

A: Community colleges should be treated more like the UC and CSU systems, with greater autonomy about how money may be spent. One example: attractive retirement packages for senior faculty would open up positions for younger, less expensive junior faculty.

3. Q: Peralta has major plans to recruit students from abroad. Do you have current data?

A: The current percentage of the Peralta student body that comes from out of state is 5.3% They generate 3.6% of the budget revenue and need an estimated 2.04% of services.

4. Q: What progress has been made in setting up Measure E community advisory committees on each campus?

A: Many advisory boards already serve specific vocational programs at each of the colleges. Now that all 4 campuses have permanent presidents, advisory committees should be appointed soon.

5. Q: There has been no report to the community about what the trustees learned in the "Listenings" of 2000, and no "Listenings" were held this past summer. What is required to reactivate community/District dialog?

A: A new schedule of "Listenings" will be arranged for the fall semester.

6. Q: The Board has recently had an all-day meeting on shared governance. What new policies and practices would create a greater sense of involvement among the District's constituencies?

A: The ultimate responsibility and authority for making District decisions rests with the Board of Trustees. The faculty has responsibility for setting standards with regard to both curriculum content and teacher quality. Faculty committees on budgets and awards now meet on each campus.

- Helene Lecar, study chair



# CALENDAR

Printed On Recycled Paper

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

## September

- 25 Wed. 7:30p Action Committee 1129 Neilson St. (*Safir*) *Brubeck*, 526-5139
- 28 Sat. 9:30a-12:30p Know Your Bay Area League Day: Housing *Safir*, 524-9088  
Unitarian Universalist Church, East Charleston Rd, Palo Alto
- 29 Sun. 3-5p Welcome New Members 1033 Colusa (Bickel) *Gardner*, 548-5292

## October

- 1 Tue. 10a-12p Pros & Cons Meeting Berkeley Main Library *Bodine*, 845-0974
- 2 Wed. 4-6p Board Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bickel*, 526-4055
- 4 Fri. 12p Deadline for October VOTER LWVBAE office *Safir*, 524-9088
- 10 Thurs. 12-2p Speaker Series: Public School Finance *Mendell*, 526-1588  
Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Edith Stone Room
- 14 Mon. 7:15p Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch St. (*Bansner*) *C.Stone*, 549-0959
- 15 Tue. 4-6p Education Committee Check with Karen *K. Olson*, 524-7004
- 17 Thurs. 7:30p Action Committee 1129 Neilson St. (*Safir*) *Brubeck*, 526-5139
- 23 Wed. T.B.A. Vista College Groundbreaking 2020 Center St. *Lecar*, 549-9719

## November

- 5 Tue. 7a-8p ELECTION DAY — TAKE A FRIEND TO THE POLLS *Watts*, 525-6614
- 6 Wed. 4-6p Board Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bickel*, 526-4055
- 7 Thurs. 12-2p Speaker Series: Bay Ferries to San Francisco *Mendell*, 526-1588  
Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Edith Stone Room



### 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 \$50 annual dues made out to:*

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.*

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