



The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

President: Sherry Smith

October 2005

Editors: Chapman, Smith & Brandes

FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, October 11, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Northbrae Community Church

941 The Alameda, Berkeley

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS: AN ADVOCACY PANEL ON THE NOVEMBER 8 BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

LWVBAE's Fall General Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, October 11, at the Northbrae Community Church, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

We'll start with a delicious buffet supper, have a brief business meeting, and then hear from advocates who reflect the state League's stands on all the propositions on the ballot, with the exception of **Proposition 80: Electric Service Providers. Regulation.** The League is neutral on Prop. 80 because as yet we have no adopted position on the issues involved. (The LWVC Energy Study has just begun and won't be finished until spring 2006.)

This topic should be of great interest to you and your non-League friends and colleagues. So bring at least one of them along to share this useful and rewarding evening. This could even lead to an increase in membership!

Check page 3 for more information on each proposition.

The speakers and the propositions for which they will argue opposition or support are:

NATALIE LE BLANC, Alameda County Campaign Director, Pro-Choice America

Prop 73 Termination of Minor's Pregnancy

MARLA HARVEY, Political Director, Alliance for a Better California

Prop 74 Public School Teachers

Prop 75 Public Employees

ANNE HENDERSON, LWVC Legislative Committee

Prop 76 State Spending/Schools

Prop 77 Redistricting

MEG REEVES, California Health Access

Prop 78 Prescription Drugs/Drug Companies

Prop 79 Prescription Drugs/Rebates

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**Suffragist note cards
available soon**

Read more on page 5
Image adapted by *Kristina Lim*
from an original by H.M. Nallas

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Supper is \$15, or you may bring your own food. Please call the office at 843-8824 to sign up for the meeting and the supper. Send your check made out to LWVBAE for \$15 to: 1414 University Ave. – Suite D, Berkeley, CA 94702. Should you need a ride, please let the office volunteer know. We'll get back to you with the name and phone number of your driver.

FALL MEETING AGENDA

5:30 – Registration and socializing

6:00 – Buffet Supper

6:45 – Business Meeting

7:15 – Panel Discussion

Jo Ann B. Price, Program Vice President

DONATIONS DURING AUGUST TO THE GENERAL FUND

<i>Regina Beatus</i>	<i>Cynthia Blumgart</i>
<i>Lisa Caronna</i>	<i>Margaret Conkey</i>
<i>Jeanette Dasey</i>	<i>William Ellis</i>
<i>Minnie Favre</i>	<i>Mary Ann Frankel</i>
<i>Wilma Jordan</i>	<i>Patricia Kuhl</i>
<i>Jane Ann Lamph</i>	<i>Patrick Leaper</i>
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	<i>Nancy Mel</i>
<i>Lila Mitchell</i>	<i>Barbara Neal</i>
<i>Allie Norton</i>	<i>Barbara Oliver</i>
<i>Martha Ramey</i>	<i>David Richardson</i>
<i>Robert Sasaki</i>	<i>Julie Shearer</i>
<i>Sherry Smith</i>	<i>Meredith Stout</i>
<i>Marianne Tanner</i>	<i>Elsa Tranter</i>
<i>Renate Tubman</i>	<i>Mary Wallmann</i>
<i>Carolyn Jones</i>	<i>Evelyn Wozniak</i>
<i>Weinberger</i>	
<i>Gordon Wozniak</i>	

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION TRIBUTE FUND

Edward Nathan In memory of *Harriet Nathan*

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

Ann-Marie Hogan *Mary Wallmann*

TO THE EVA ALEXIS BANSNER FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Horst Bansner
Prepared by *Lenora Young*

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I have been away for nearly three weeks, on the annual "R&R" that Judd and I take in Oregon, that wonderful state to our north.

While we were in the southern Oregon Cascades at a rustic "resort" on the Willamette Pass, the only newspaper available at a general store "out at the road" was the Eugene *Register-Guard*, proudly celebrating its 135th year of publication.

Although the *Guard* covers a relatively small circulation area, it is not parochial by any means and has a nice balance of international and national news along with its local coverage.

Glancing through the news of upcoming Eugene events, I was so very proud to see a nice emphasis on a League of Women Voters "pros and cons" presentation on a land use issue that will be on their local ballot this November.

As happens when listening to National Public Radio on a community college station that has a repeater antenna high in the mountain pass where you're staying, finding a story on a League event in a city far from home can make you aware of how the League's influence extends far and wide and up and down the country.

If it would have been at all convenient for me to go, I would have happily attended that meeting and been pleased to introduce myself.

This issue of the VOTER is filled with all sorts of useful information. Where volunteers are solicited, please call the numbers given. We're approaching League High Season with the special election going forward, and we need all the help you can give.

Sherry Smith, President

NEW MEMBERS

Our warmest welcome to our newest members:

<i>Gabrielle Hammack</i>	<i>Candace Simonen</i>
<i>Helen Johnson</i>	<i>Sarah Schaaf</i>
<i>William McKinney</i>	<i>Evelyn Wozniak</i>
<i>Linda Perry</i>	<i>Gordon Wozniak</i>
<i>Tim Perry</i>	

LEAGUES AND LEAGUERS AT WORK IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

Elaine Ginnold, Acting Registrar of Voters for Alameda County, has recruited many League members for two new advisory committees on **Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)** and on **Elections**.

The Election Advisory Committee, which first met in August, was formed to advise the Registrar's office on election issues from the point of view of County voters. Its initial focus has been voting equipment decisions, in light of two laws that go into effect on January 1, 2006 requiring County action. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA), requires each polling place to have accessible voting equipment so that all voters can vote independently and privately. The current touchscreen equipment used by the County meets this requirement. The second is the State law that requires each touchscreen to have a voter verified paper audit trail printer. No qualifying equipment has yet been certified by the Secretary of State. Certifications are due between September and December 2005.

Ginnold, with approval by the Board of Supervisors, is issuing a new Request for Proposals (RFP) for a single vendor to provide a mix of equipment at each polling place—touchscreens with a paper audit trail, and an optical scan system. This would give voters a choice of systems. Vendors who respond to the RFP will have to meet rigorous new contract provisions that should avoid many of the earlier difficulties that the County endured.

Early Advisory Committee meetings have focused on the erosion of public confidence in the accuracy and reliability of our elections. Issues considered include improving the machines and programs, improving the testing by elections officials, use of "open source code", and making all aspects of the election process open and visible, or "transparent."

Registrar Ginnold has worked with the committee to develop a uniform protocol for **IRV elections** within the County. A uniform "road map" adopted by cities that wished to run IRV elections would enable the county to instruct vendors to develop programs, certifiable by the Secretary of State, when any kind of IRV election arises. In that way, if the same road map were adopted by cities within the County that wished

to run IRV elections, the Registrar and the vendor would be able to move forward with incorporating IRV elections as part of consolidated elections. At present Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro permit IRV elections in some cases. The IRV road map is currently being reviewed by the City Attorneys of these three cities, and the County Counsel.

Good local press coverage of efforts by IRV activists, including some Leaguers, could lead Berkeley to use IRV for its Mayoral, Auditor and Council elections in November of 2006. In September, the Berkeley City Council passed member Kriss Worthington's motion to write to the Secretary of State for clarification of what the City will need to do to implement IRV. The Council urged the Registrar and Board of Supervisors to implement IRV and is preparing to adopt an implementation ordinance. Former City Clerk Sherry Kelly, hired to work on implementing IRV, continues to work with the Registrar and connect with potential vendors to overcome barriers to IRV in Berkeley.

Funding Health Services in the County is a continuing League concern. At its August meeting, the **Alameda County Council LWW** confirmed creation of the ACC Health Committee and nominated two League members, Dr. Ken Ballard and Sal Tedesco, to the Measure A Oversight Committee. The County Leagues strongly supported Measure A in 2004 as a bailout of the heavily indebted County Medical Center, manager of Highland Hospital and other County services, the safety net for those without health insurance.

Grand Jury reports on the Medical Center's progress toward good fiscal and administrative management are very critical after passage of Measure A. The ACC has written several letters to the Board of Supervisors urging improvement.

To support our two expert nominees to the Oversight committee, we named Susan Schroeder, LWW Piedmont representative to ACC, and Dr. *Ursula Rolfe* to the ACC Health Committee. Susan will chair the committee, and both will share observing duties at the Alameda County Medical Center Board.

(continued on page 5)

(ACC continued from page 4)

Join the Committee? The ACC Health Committee will communicate by e-mail, with meetings from time to time, so Leaguers who would like to participate in the committee's communications should contact Susan Schroeder at srschroede@aol.com.

ACC on the Web: League Action at the County level is often invisible to members so LWVBAE has agreed to host the Alameda County Council of LWV's web pages. We'll be posting our letters to elected officials and other info. Take a look at www.lwvbae.org/acc.htm or just go to the lwvbae.org site and click the Alameda County Leagues items.

Nancy Bickel, Chair, Alameda County Council

LWV CALIFORNIA ENERGY STUDY

The workbook for the state League's 2005-06 Energy Study has recently been received. We hope to have as many members as possible involved throughout the fall and winter months.

This topic is of vital interest to one and all. Each of us needs to be fully informed about the issues and the facts behind them. Please make time to be part of this crucial study.

Call the office at 843-8824 for further information and to volunteer. The first meeting of the Energy Study Committee was held September 29. Further meetings will be announced.

Roselyn Rosenfeld, Chair

FOLLOW THE PAPER TRAIL: WILLARD MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIONS

On Wednesday, October 26, students at Willard Middle School in Berkeley will go to the polls to elect their student government. For the last several years, the LWVBAE has run the election, handing out ballots and collecting them, as teachers lead their classes through the polling place, and adding up the marked ballots grade by grade to determine the winners.

To do the job, we need two or three volunteers for each of three shifts, 8:30-10:30,

10:30-12:30, and 12:30 to 3:00. The Willard teaching staff has the process down to a science, including bagels and cream cheese for volunteers.

Can you spare a couple of hours on Wednesday, October 26? If so, please call *Helene Lecar* at 549-9719 to sign up.

THE SUFFRAGIST

Everyone who received the delightful invitation to the LWVBAE 2005 Community Luncheon (see image on page 1) will be pleased to know that **Suffragist** note cards will be available in mid-October. A donation of \$10 for a package of 8 will enhance the League's General Fund, which supports our many community activities. Please call the office at 843-8824 to order one or more packages now.

Jo Ann B. Price, Program VP

Board Briefs--September 7, 2005

The Board was asked to support Measure A, a parcel tax to support schools on the Nov. 8 Albany ballot. A vote was put off pending the collection of additional information to answer members' questions. Further research was done and shared in the days following the meeting, and the Board, polled electronically, voted to **support** the measure.

The following motions passed unanimously:

- That the League allocate up to \$300 to print notepaper featuring the Community Luncheon artwork, to be made available for a donation.
- That the Board continue the Sixth Star Circle group of donors, and that a committee be established to formalize its place within the League.
- That the Board write a letter in support of the League of Women Voters of Louisiana's efforts regarding environmental matters in the hurricane area. A letter will also be sent to the California League backing their support of the Louisiana League.

Angharad Jones, Secretary



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
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Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

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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.

CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated

OCTOBER

- 5 Wed. 7-9 pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 7 Fri. noon Deadline for the November *VOTER* *B. Chapman, 527-0827*
- 10 Mon. 7:30-9:30 Environmental Concerns *G. Schickle,*
Home of Horst Bansner, 1340 Arch St. *(415) 922-5826*
Speaker: Richard Register
Topic: A 5-Point Strategy for Sustainable Rebuilding, with
focus on New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina
- 11 Tues. 5:30 pm **Fall General Membership Meeting**
Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda, Berkeley *J. Price, 548-5206*
- 20 Thurs. 7:30 pm Action Committee *P. Watts, 525-6614*

NOVEMBER

- 2 Wed. 7-9 pm Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office *S. Smith, 548-1769*
- 4 Fri. noon Deadline for the Dec-Jan *VOTER* *B. Chapman, 527-0827*
- 8 Tues. 7am-8pm **California Special Election** *J. Gardner, 548-5292*
Albany Parcel Tax – Measure A
Emeryville City Election
- 14 Mon. 7:30-9:30 Environmental Concerns *C. Stone, 549-0959*
- 17 Thurs. 7:30 pm Action Committee *P. Watts, 525-6614*