



President: Nancy Bickel

November, 2002

Editor: Jean Safir

STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM STUDY COMES TO CONSENSUS

This fall, Leagues all over the state are coming together to decide how the California Community College System should be governed and financed. This represents the culmination of a year long study leading to the formulation of a new set of Action Positions to enable the League to advocate improvements in the system.

Join us for **two consensus units at the Berkeley Central Public Library** on Tuesday, **November 19**, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and on Tuesday, **December 10**, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. We are sharing these units with the Oakland and Piedmont Leagues, so we should get a good turnout. Evening units will be scheduled by the Piedmont League, so if you would like to attend an evening meeting, call *Helene Lecar* (549-9719) about the times and places.

There are 72 community college districts (CCDs) in California, with 108 campuses. Together, they constitute the largest such system in the world, with 1.6 million students (in 2001). They also offer the most affordable college educational opportunity in the U. S., with fees of only \$11 per credit per semester.

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On November 19, we will be talking about the students, the missions and the governance of the colleges. Our second **unit**, on December 10, will be devoted mainly to Finance. If you cannot make either one of these and would like to find out about **units** being held in Oakland and Piedmont, call *Helene* for the details.

Enclosed with this VOTER is a packet of background information to enable members to attend the **units** as informed participants. Please review these pages and bring them with you to the **units** of your choice.

- *Helene Lecar*, Study Chair, 549-9719

SPEAKER SERIES

SCRIP FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Let the League profit from your Holiday shopping by using scrip

Over one hundred businesses in the Bay Area accept scrip which the League buys at a discount and sells to you at face value. Chances are you will shop at several of these places - e.g., Macy's, Barnes&Noble, ToysR Us, Longs, the Gap — for gifts and your own needs during the holiday season. For a list of participating merchants and any other details, please contact me at 527-1992 or my e-mail address at evabrecher@aol.com.

If you shop on line, there is another way to support the League and this one is even more profitable and simpler. You can access the Web sites of most major retailers through the <schoolcash.com> Web site and designate the League under "support an organization". For further instructions please contact me.

Not getting enough credit for doing the grocery shopping?

Does anybody thank you for shopping for dinner? Has a quick trip for a quart of milk lost its sense of purpose? If you shop at Andronico's, try the League of Women Voters SCRIP program. You'll feel appreciated in those little moments when you really need it. Pay for groceries with your credit, debit or ATM card (after a simple e-SCRIP registration) and Andronico's pays the League 5 cents for every dollar you spend. Or, if you prefer to use paper SCRIP (just call us and we'll deliver it to your home), the League will receive 6% of your total purchase. With a quick phone call you can enroll in either program, and turn your grocery shopping into support for an informed citizenry.

For more information on e-SCRIP or paper SCRIP, call me at 527-1992 or via e-mail at evabrecher@aol.com.

- *Eva Brecher*, Scrip Coordinator

Thursday, November 7, noon to 2 p.m.
Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room
1247 Marin Avenue, at Masonic

Heidi Machen, public affairs officer of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority, will discuss proposed additional ferries from Bay locations to San Francisco. The Water Transit Authority was formed by the State legislature in 1999 to study the need for expanded ferry service on San Francisco Bay and will submit its plan to the Legislature by the end of this year. The draft plan would add seven routes, including Berkeley-Albany, and would use state-of-the-art boats to reduce air pollution.

Ms. Machen, holder of a law degree from Hastings College of the Law, University of California, San Francisco, was previously employed in San Francisco Supervisor Gavin Newsom's office as policy aide for legislation, concentrating on transportation matters.

The meeting at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Avenue, will be from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the Edith Stone Room at the rear of the library, facing the parking lot.

Bring lunch if you'd like; the League will provide juice.

- *Evelyn Light*, committee member

NEW MEMBERS

<i>Richard Brooks</i>	<i>Dennis Layton-Rodin</i>
<i>Linda Carothers</i>	<i>Peggy McGarahan</i>
<i>John DeClercq</i>	<i>Derick Miller</i>
<i>Nancy Kron</i>	

- *Jinky Gardner*, Membership Director

2003 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

The 2003 League Calendars are now available in the office. Pocket and wall calendars may be purchased for \$3.00 each. Call 510-843-8824 if interested.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you are reading this before November 5, it's not too late for you to support the League's mission by contributing your time and energy. Call the office to do last minute jobs — answering phones, distributing *Pros and Cons* — or ask you neighbors if they would like a lift to the polls.

Phoebe Watts and many others have been working very hard to get out nonpartisan election information. This year we are also campaigning hard on measures the League supports and opposes -- included as a separate flyer with last month's Voter. Please be sure to review it and support LWV policies by voting with the League.

Working with the Steering Committees **for No on P and Yes on M** has been demanding and invigorating for *Jean Safir, Lois Brubeck, Lenora Young*, me and others. We've met new people of all ages — talented, knowledgeable and energetic.

We've also re-encountered League members and other allies from years past. These folks are strongly committed to actually building new housing in Berkeley — for low- income folks and for our workforce — and to reducing the traffic that makes us all feel that Berkeley is too crowded. Although, since 1970, we've lost about 8,000 residents, we have gained about 10,000 cars and 25,000 jobs. At the same time, we've barely increased the net number of housing units.

So we need to provide affordable housing to make it possible for more folks who work here to live here. We also need to plan coordinated improvements of housing, transit and other amenities in neighborhoods that need them, — for example, on San Pablo and University avenues. After the election, we hope to build an effective coalition with these allies to accomplish these goals.

- *Nancy Bickel*, President

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 7:30 pm
1340 Arch Street

On November 11, the Environmental Concerns Committee will present Bob and Marion Stephens sharing their first-hand accounts of the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development which was held in early September in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Bob Stephens is the Assistant Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency with a portfolio in sustainability and officially attended the conference in that role. His wife Marion is an educator who was able to observe more of the multi-cultural country exhibits. This should be a fascinating evening with two different perspectives on the same global event.

-*Carol Stone*, Environmental Concerns Co-Chair

BOARD BRIEFS

At its October 2 meeting, the Board . . .

- voted to support an update of our LWVC Education Position to include Pre-K through 12.
- reviewed the financial reports of League Year July 2001-June 2002.
- discussed the status of League election services, including Mock Elections at the high schools in our 3 cities.
- heard reports of League Action to support Measure M (affordable housing) and to oppose Measure P (height limits) in Berkeley.
- analyzed last month's and upcoming meetings and activities - in LWVBAE Program and Community Outreach departments.

-*Ginette Polak*, Secretary

LEAGUE ACTIVE AT SOLANO STROLL

The League presence at the Solano Stroll booth drew interest from many of those walking on the Avenue. *Nancy Bickel* walked in the parade to tout the League opposition to Berkeley's Proposition. P, while *Polly Amrein* handed out the flyer on "Vote with the League," and *Phoebe Watts* put up paper origami cranes to symbolize peace as the Stroll theme. League members were kept busy at our table all day handing out voter registration forms, election information, membership applications and other League materials. *Nancy Bickel, Lois Brubeck, Aida Brenneis, Karen Nelson, Jean Safir, Ginette Polak, Jinky Gardner* and *Lessly Wikle* took turns meeting and greeting the public.

We got the following feedback from strollers: "Your Web site is great." "Oh, you're opposed to Measure P; you're always on the right side of the issue — or almost always, anyway." "How can I get a copy of your voter information? Yes, the pros and cons." "I don't trust what anyone else tells me, but I always trust the League."

- *Karen Nelson*

HELP WANTED

The VOTER editor is seeking members who would like to help produce our monthly newsletter — to do any or all of the following: writing, editing, layout / design, and more. If you have skills you want to apply, or if you want to learn some new ones, please call *Jean Safir* at 524-9088 or e-mail me at jeansafir@att.net.

DONATIONS

to the General Fund:

<i>Suzanne Adams</i>	<i>Ora & Kurt Huth</i>
<i>Joyce Baldwin</i>	<i>Janet Johnston</i>
<i>Eva Brecher</i>	<i>Mary Lines</i>
<i>Jane & Tom Coulter</i>	<i>Frances Packard</i>
<i>Mary Friedman</i>	<i>Todd Smith</i>

to the Tribute Fund: In memory of *Emily Fine*
Marjorie & Hugh Rubinow
Lassie & Lloyd Ulman

to the Foundation: *Robert Birge*
Elaine Grossberg *Ora Huth*

- *Evelyn Light*

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME EVENT

Come and meet local League leaders, tell us your interests and concerns, and find out how you can make a difference on current social and political issues.

**Sunday, Nov. 24, 3-5 p.m. at
President *Nancy Bickel's* house
1033 Colusa Ave., Berkeley**

Please call, *Jinky Gardner*, Membership Director, at 548-5292, with any questions.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With election time coming up, there is a need for more volunteers to help with mail, phone calls and general election activities.

If you are able to spend several hours at a stretch, on one or two days a month, helping at the office, please call *Ruthann Taylor* at 527-0673 or the League Office. Training will be provided.

- *Ruthann Taylor*, administration vp

ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION AND VOTER TURNOUT

Why don't more people vote? According to Dr. Benjamin Highton, speaking at the LWV Fall Membership Meeting on September 19, the main reason is that they aren't registered, and that is frequently because they have changed their address since the last election. Dr. Highton, Professor of Political Science at UC Davis, says that over 1/3 of Americans move every 2 years. They have to learn their way around, find out how things work in their new communities, establish whom to trust for information, and learn where and how to register. All of a sudden, election day comes, and it's too late to register, so they can't vote.

The other two main factors connected to voter turnout are age — younger people are less likely to vote than older people — and level of education — the more educated you are, the more likely you are to vote. We can't do much to change these two factors, but Proposition 52 on this November's ballot will give us a chance to make it much easier for people who have recently moved to register and vote. Election day registration has been shown to result in a 5% to 10% increase in turnout when states adopted it voluntarily, rather than as a way to avoid implementing the Motor Voter Law requirements. Studies show that election day registration does not systematically favor Democratic or Republican candidates.

Prof. Highton reported that creating a holiday for election day or voting on Sunday would not markedly increase turnout. In answer to a question about the effects of third parties, he said that a viable third party would increase turnout, but it is very difficult for a third party to maintain a significant electoral presence in the US.

In response to questions about possible voter fraud, Dr. Highton said that this does not appear to have been a problem in those states using election day registration. Concern over voters being uninformed if they decide to register on the day of the election was deemed to be no more warranted than it is for the other voters. And Dr. Highton stressed that keeping people from voting because they do not know what someone thinks they should know could result in the disenfranchisement of

minority populations, as has happened in the past through such devices as reading tests and poll taxes.

So, if our League is to encourage voter turnout, We need to work hard to pass proposition 52 for election day registration and to talk to as many individual people as we can to encourage them to vote. Election day registration is an adopted League policy and Prop. 52 is endorsed by the League of Women Voters of California.

We have our work cut out for us!

- Eloise Bodine, Program VP

EDUCATION COMMITTEE PROGRAMS

The Education Committee of the LWVBAE is currently gearing up for two major projects this fall and we can use some help:

- 1) registration of 18-year-old high school students to vote in the General Election, November 5, 2002, and
- 2) supervising the nationwide Student Mock Election, November 1, 2002.

The LWVC Education Foundation is once again coordinating activities in California, in conjunction with the Secretary of State Bill Jones, Honorary Chair for 2002, and Delaine Eastin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Honorary Co-Chair.

The Mock Election is open to all high school students. The League provides copies of *Easy Reading Voter Guide* and the local and state *Pros & Cons* for each student. A shortened ballot will be used by students and the nationwide results will be available online. So far we have all public high schools in Berkeley, Albany & Emeryville interested.

Many teachers enjoy the program and work hard to stimulate discussions in their classrooms. It has been our experience that, given the opportunity, these young people do get involved and are passionate debaters. Our hope is that this will translate into more voters in the future.

If you have 2-4 hours on any day in October or on November 1, Mock Election Day, please call either of the co-chairs: *Karen Carlson-Olson* at 524-7004 or *Jinky Gardner* at 548-5292.

CALENDAR

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

OCTOBER

30 Wed. 4-6p Board Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bickel, 526-4055*

NOVEMBER

1 Fri. Noon Deadline for Winter VOTER e-mail: *jeansafir@att.net* *Safir, 524-9088*
 1 Fri. Mock election in Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville high schools *K. Olson, 524-7004*
 5 Tue. 7a-8p **ELECTION DAY — Take a Friend to the Polls!** *Watts, 525-6614*
 7 Thurs. Noon Speaker Series: Ferry Transit Proposals *Mendell, 526-1588*
 Albany Public Library, Marin at Masonic, Edith Stone Room
 11 Mon. LWVBAE Office closed for Veterans Day Holiday
 11 Mon. 7:30 Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch St. (*Bansner*) *Stone, 549-0959*
 13 Wed. Noon LWVBA Meeting on Regional Issues LWVBAE office *Bansner, 849-2154*
 19 Tue. 10:30a Consensus Unit: State Community College Study *Lecar, 549-9719*
 Berkeley Central Public Library, Community Room, Shattuck & Kittridge
 24 Sun. 3-5p New Member Welcome 1033 Colusa Ave. (*Bickel*) *Gardner, 548-5292*
 28-29 Thurs.-Fri. LWVBAE Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday *Taylor, 527-0673*

DECEMBER

4 Wed. 4-6p Board Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bickel, 526-4055*
 9 Mon. 7:30 Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch St. (*Bansner*) *Stone, 549-0959*
 10 Tue. 10:30a Consensus Unit: State Community College Study *Lecar, 549-9719*
 Berkeley Central Public Library, Community Room, Shattuck & Kittridge



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.

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
 of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
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