



THE

V O T E R

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE

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November, 1997

Editor: Bob Hawley

September UNIT Consensus: Restudy of LWVUS United Nations Position

LWVBAE's September UNIT at the Northbrae Community Church was well attended. We were joined by representatives from the East Bay Chapter of the UN-USA organization who added information and interest to the discussion. The purpose of the meeting was explained: to determine by consensus whether 1) to agree with the concurrence requested by the Chicago League regarding changes of key elements of the LWVUS United Nations position, or 2) to support the recommendation of the Washington DC and Montgomery MD Leagues that a restudy be made of the entire LWVUS UN position.

LWVBAE members presented an abbreviated version of background materials and recommendations for change sent by Leagues serving on the UN Task Force. However, the specific wording for updating the position by concurrence had not been forwarded to us. The presenters and their topics were:

- *Joan Berzins* on UN Structure/Function
- *Ruthann Taylor* on Peacekeeping
- *Jean Safir* on The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund
- *Janet Strothman* on Nongovernmental Organizations
- *Jo Ann Price* on Financing the UN

After lively discussion, the following conclusions were reached. Information received so far from the UN Task Force is insufficient to allow our League to concur on anything. Our discussion, on the other hand, reached a consensus that restudy of LWVUS' UN position is overdue and necessary if LWVUS is to

-(Continued on Page 9)

Should LWVC Have Positions On Mental Health and On Libraries? Come To the Meeting on Nov. 12

At present, LWVC can neither oppose nor support legislation or bond issues on Mental Health or on Libraries because LWVC does not have positions on these subjects.

Delegates at the LWVC's Convention '97 expressed strong interest in adopting state League positions on **Mental Health** and **Libraries** by concurrence. Since all local Leagues had not had an opportunity to review the proposed positions prior to Convention, the chair ruled that the positions would be mailed to them with background information, and that local Leagues would have six months to consider and to report to LWVC on whether or not they concur with the positions. For the proposed positions to become state League positions, at least 60 percent of local Leagues and Inter-League Organizations, (46 of the 77) must concur.

Our League has received some background material on each of these positions (see Page 9). We may supplement this with our own local research, and we should consider how each position would apply in our community and whether it would conflict with our local positions.

LWVBAE will consider whether we should concur with these positions at a **1 pm** meeting on **Wednesday, November 12, at the Albany Public Library, 1247 Marin Avenue, Albany**. If you want to read the concurrence kits or our local positions on these subjects, call the office; if you want to help us develop background material, please call me, *Phoebe Watts*, ASAP. -(Continued on Page 9)

President's Message

We had a wonderful Fall membership meeting, and our 1997-98 year is off to a flying start.

Thanks to all who attended and participated, and especially to those who helped provide the delicious food. After nourishing our bodies, we were ready and eager to learn about the many exciting opportunities open to us as League members, and what a rich and full menu that is! We heard about our several ongoing study groups - the United Nations at the national level; juvenile justice and the county dependency system at the state level; welfare reform at the county level; and the re-examination of our local position on the rent stabilization board. Then we were fascinated to hear about the programs planned by our several committees, including Education and Environmental Concerns. Members of the Action Committee described the rewards experienced by observers of city and regional agencies as they become familiar with the inner workings of our government at all levels. Finally, we were entertained by a group of members who have been working with children in the elementary grades to insure that they acquire the literacy skills so essential to school success.

If any of you who did not attend the meeting would like to join one or more of these activities, read on, and you will learn whom to contact. Also check out the calendar to see when meetings are scheduled.

The Fall meeting was co-sponsored with our committee on Environmental Concerns which provided our evening speaker, Dwight Steele, who reviewed the history of the development of the Eastshore State Park. This is a pattern we hope to continue, as we coordinate our various committees and programs. We not only plan to co-sponsor meetings with other local leagues, but also to join with other organizations, as appropriate. Our committee on the United Nations, for example, invited representatives of the East Bay Association for the United Nations to join in the discussion. Together with the School of Journalism at UC Berkeley, we are holding a public meeting on the Sunshine Ordinance, a procedure which supplements the Brown Act's provisions for public access to government. The "Make Democracy Work" project has involved us in public meetings with a number of community organizations which, like us, want to increase civic participation.

The regular monthly board meeting was held at the South Berkeley Public Library on 10/1/97.

Reports of recent League meetings and events included the Solano Stroll, Fall Membership Meeting, and Bay Area League Day.

New League pocket calendars are now in the office and cost \$2.50

The final amount (\$1489.51) from a bequest by *Jane Paxson* has been received and will be put into the Endowment Fund.

We agreed to join with other Bay Area Leagues in the dependency portion of the LWVC Juvenile Justice study.

We've been requested to hold a candidates' night for Emeryville and will do so.

We are developing a web page and it will be ready next month. *Bill Chapman* has agreed to be our computer consultant, *Marian Leibowitz* will be corresponding secretary, and *Ruthann Taylor* will be assistant to the Program vice president. Our Nominating Committee is at work to fill several other vacancies (see Page 5).

-Violet Feinauer, Secretary

In all of these ways, we continue to play a vital role in the life of our community, a role for which we were honored last year by the Berkeley Community Foundation.

You can be proud to be a member of this organization. And, by the way, if you really feel that way, why not invite a friend to join with us. Bring a guest to the next meeting or program you attend, and ask him or her to become a member. We are especially seeking diversity among our members: we need more men, more younger people, and more minority people to share with us the benefits of becoming "informed and active citizens." Not to mention the good food at our next potluck dinner.

- Doris

Board Briefs

Donors As Of October 1997

General Fund

Linda Burden Sylvia McLaughlin
Randa Diamond Barbara Nagai
Violet Feinauer Betty Parsons
Mari Fertig Janine Rosenzweig
Mary Friedman Clyde & Ruthann Taylor
Grace Gildersleeve Cheryl Woodard
Patricia Kates

Foundation

Suzanne Adams Jane Ann Lamph
Lisa Alfert Barbara De Oddone
Jane Barrett

Members and Membership Pieces, Bits, and News You Can Use Pieces

Welcome to new members *Abigail Cook, Jeanne A. King, and Carla Riemer*. Our regrets and a welcome to *Dr. Margaret Alafi*, a new member, whose name was omitted from the September *Voter*.

Polly Armstrong: gained a family member when daughter Amanda was married to Marc Acheson on June 28.

Dildar Gartenberg: back home to Berkeley from Bosnia, where she served as a monitor of the recent election.

Anne Henderson: newly acquired avocation: Tight Rope walking.

Wilma Jordan: best wishes for a rapid convalescence after surgery.

Nina Olson: recovering nicely from cataract surgery.

Dorothy P. Rice, Prof. Emeritus: named Distinguished Fellow of the Association for Health Services Research in recognition of her long history in research, the over 200 papers, reports, and articles she has published in her life time of work.

Bits

Number of Members 10/01/97 418
 Number of League related phone calls by
 Membership Chair in September 86

A recruitment program has begun that is based upon the philosophy that it is much more efficient to have each individual member recruit just one new LWVBAE member than to have the Membership Chair be responsible for recruiting 417 (based on the present number of LWVBAE members). To that end, there are now kits available which include: 1) a low-key personal letter which requires only that you fill in the name of the prospective member, the date, and your name; 2) an LWVBAE dues remittance envelope; and 3) a stamped return envelope to address to your cousin, your neighbor, someone in your car pool, your dentist, or to any person you believe to be a potential LWVBAE member. When appropriate brochures are received from LWVC, they will be included in the kits. All Committee Chair people are requested to help in this recruitment effort by having a small supply of these kits available at each committee meeting or League function.

Retailers are said to believe that "a satisfied customer is the most efficient and least expensive advertisement." If you are a satisfied League member, if you enjoy working with interesting men and women, if you find League work worthwhile, let the light shine. Be a League advertisement, share the League experience by recruiting a new member.

Wanted: Pieces and Bits for the Winter *Voter* (December 1997 - January 1998).

-*Eleanor Cox*, Membership Chair

Welcome, Audrey VanDenberg!

We are pleased to report that the search for a new Administrative Assistant (office manager) has been successfully concluded. Audrey VanDenberg comes with the needed skills and experience and we expect she will make a great addition to our office. She has worked with other nonprofit organizations and has held responsible positions in other busy offices. We are grateful for the assistance of other League members in this search. When you come into the office in the next few weeks, please introduce yourself to Audrey.

-The Search Committee
 (*Marion Luten, Marj Rubinow, Ginette Polak*)

The 1997 Solano Stroll

Yet again, the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville proved it pays to be "down to earth," even with an Intergalactic theme for this year's Solano Stroll. We enabled at least 23 voters to re-register with new home addresses, and hopefully interested others in joining the League. Thousands attend this event every year, so the League's presence is merited. To our volunteers who braved the sun, heat, crowds, and even some sprinkles of rain, we give thanks. Kudos to *Phoebe Watts, Mary Jacobson, Mary Hampton, Elizabeth De Velbiss, Jo Ann Price, Doris Mendell, Barbara Coleman, and Mary Wallmann*. Extra kudos to *Mary Wallmann*, who stayed an additional hour.

Lois Brubeck & Karen Carlson-Olson,
Solano Stroll Co-Chairs

Fall Membership Meeting

For those of you who missed this meeting, you missed a great presentation of the long struggle to make our Eastshore State Park a reality. The speaker, Dwight Steele, was introduced by *Stana Hearne* who serves as Executive Director of the Coalition for East Bay State Park (CESP). Dwight played a large role in a variety of ways and shared a printed time line of the history of citizen efforts on behalf of the Park. (For those not present, copies are available in our office.) Dwight was most generous in giving our League credit for supporting the creation of the park since 1983. This wonderful park could not have become a reality without the cooperation of many groups and individuals.

Gail Schickele and *Erika Kunkel* of the Environmental Concerns Committee and our Program VP, *Phoebe Watts*, deserve credit for planning this excellent program.

-Meda Rechen, Consultant, East Bay Shoreline

Know Your Bay Area: Cirque De League A Great Success

Eighty-three local league members from the nine Bay Area counties attended the LWVBA's daylong program on September 27. In the morning, a panel moderated by Richmond Mayor *Rosemary Corbin*, a long-time League member, focused on "The Inter-Relatedness of Air and Water Quality with Land Use and Transportation." Speakers from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and ABAG described how their agencies were working together. They also noted how local Leagues can influence their elected officials to take into account the transportation consequences and the effects on regional environmental quality of their individual land use decisions. Highlighted was a discussion of the giant CALFED project, an intergovernmental, interdisciplinary effort to resolve the water supply and environmental resource problems of the San Francisco Bay and delta system. Knowledgeable State and Bay Area league members have been active in this effort.

The afternoon brought "Cirque de League," an LWVBA production featuring state board members disguised as ringmaster, juggler, fortune teller, tightrope walker (our own *Anne Henderson*), and clown. Their acts, followed by workshops, illuminated the following: Special Projects For Engaging Communities In The Democratic Process, Voter Service Issues, Putting The Fun Back Into Fundraising, and Working Your Way Through Legislative Issues.

Local members, ten of them from Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville, came away with fuller understanding of the regional issues that concern LWVBA and the important role League influence can play in resolving them.

-Yvonne San Jule, LWVBA

Environmental Concerns Reminder

Monday, November 17, 1997.

Blueprint For A Sustainable Bay Area

Speaker from Urban Ecology; Meet at 7:15 pm, 1340 Arch Street

No meeting in December

Topics and dates for 1998 to be announced

Contact *Erika Kunkel*

Education Committee Launches Look At BUSD Decision- Making

“The entire organization can be distracted by the crisis of the month.” These are the words of *Irene Hegarty*, former Berkeley School Board member, referring to BUSD decision-making. Education Committee members were enlightened by her talk at their September meeting. Ms. *Hegarty* stressed the School Board’s responsibility for ensuring that goals are achieved. However, she pointed out that goals often follow budgeting, making it difficult to tie the two together. The School Board also needs to hold the Superintendent accountable for direction, information, and plans, and for setting deadlines for completion of various tasks, she said. Board members are generalists and have to sort through information received from staff and parents. While assigning each Board member a specialty (as in Oakland) might be an alternative, the problem is that Board members may then lose sight of the total picture. Ms. *Hegarty* sees a need for our League to urge the School Board to limit the number of goals set and see to their attainment.

In discussing participatory decision-making, Ms. *Hegarty* pointed out while the administration and School Board can be held accountable, parents cannot. She mentioned that surveys of parental satisfaction, now being conducted in some elementary schools, could keep the Board up on its “consumers.” Ultimately, however, the Board is responsible, and should be held accountable through the election process. She also noted that the year-round bargaining with the Teachers’ Union has improved relations. Finally, given the unmanageability of Berkeley High and its difficulty in serving its diverse population, Ms. *Hegarty* felt that now might be the time to look seriously at breaking up Berkeley High by starting a small school of some 600 students within the existing school.

Doris Fine had reported earlier on the Concerned Citizens’ Committee which is urging the School Board to see that Berkeley High is kept on task in its reform process. And *Helene Lecar* updated us on progress with School-To-Career: we are working to help the city and schools integrate youth employment programs; there is to be a parents’ forum on Career Connections at Berkeley High on October 16 and a proposed job-shadowing day in February; work is being done to integrate junior high, high school and higher education to assure better and wider

opportunities for both study and employment.

The Education Committee plans to continue looking at decision-making and responsibility in the district with Jackie Fox Ruby, president of the Teachers’ Union, meeting with us on October 30, and with *Nancy Spaeth* to speak from her administrative experience on December 4. In January, we will look at Special Education with Joann Biondi, BUSD director of Special Education. In February, we hope to meet with a middle school principal, and in March, with some BSEP representatives. For further details, call *Lois Brubeck*.

-*Barbara Wardwell* and *Lois Brubeck*, Education Committee Chairs

Nominating Committee Report

Last month, the Nominating Committee recruited six outstanding people to join the ranks of those working for the League. They are: *Bill Chapman*, Computer Consultant; *Marian Leibowitz*, Correspondence Secretary; *Ruthann Taylor*, assistant to the Program Vice President; *Ruth Ganong*, Transportation Consultant; *Doris Mendell*, Public Relations; and *Mary Selkirk*, Water Consultant.

Several interesting positions are still available:

- Voter Editor - Our long-time editor, *Bob Hawley*, wants to retire, but he’ll stay to help guide a new editor.
- Community Services Vice President - *Regina Minudri*, our current VP, is on a temporary assignment as chief of the San Francisco Public Library.
- Fund Raising Consultant - Our Development VP, *Karen Nelson*, has planned an unusual fund raiser, but needs help with this and other events.
- Office Volunteers - We need people to fill several three-hour time slots in the League office. You may work once a week, once a month, or more.

Please phone me with your ideas and suggestions.

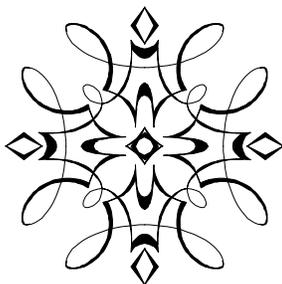
-*Louise Larson*, Chair,
Nominating Committee

Emeryville Election

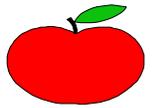
November 4 is election day in Emeryville. Members, remember to vote! Here's why:

- To exercise your most fundamental right. The right to vote is the most important right of citizenship because it is the only means you have of preserving all your other rights.
- To participate in the symbolic act of affirming support for our system of government. Democracy is a participatory form of government.
- To keep government working and avoid chaos. Voting is the way power is transferred in this country in a peaceful and orderly way.
- To express your opinion as an individual. When power changes, policies also change. Unless you vote, you haven't had any say on whether the policy should change. Election Day is a giant public opinion poll-the only one that includes all citizens.
- To influence elected officials. Our vote is our collective power. The group that votes usually gets what it wants; the group that doesn't vote can be ignored.
- To send a signal to those elected. A landslide election will tell those who won that they have a mandate to carry out their programs. Victory by a narrow margin will send a message to the winners to be cautious or to compromise in order to increase their support; thus, votes on the losing side are also important.
- To change the outcome of an election. In close races, just one vote can change the outcome. That **ONE VOTE MIGHT BE YOURS!**

-From LWVC Voters Service Update,
September 19, 1997



SPEAKER SERIES



Program

WHEN: Thursday, November 20, at noon
WHERE: West Berkeley Library
 1125 University Avenue (Berkeley)
SPEAKER: *Gail Schickele*, LWVBAE
 Environmental Concerns Committee Co-Chair

Sustainable Communities

Gail Schickele, co-chair of LWVBAE Environmental Concerns Committee, will be the first of our noontime speakers for 1997-98. "Sustainable Communities" will be her timely topic. *Gail* will appear at noon on November 20 at the West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Avenue. Sustainable communities are those in which environmental concerns are at the forefront of the way the community functions.

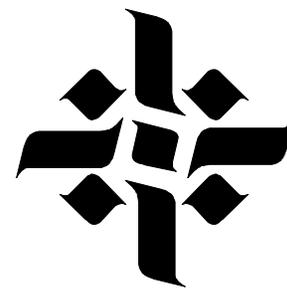
In addition to her local efforts, *Gail* is serving on the LWVC taskforce to formulate a sustainability position from existing League positions for member concurrence. Jane Bergen is LWVC's Task Force Chair.

Gail's impressive background in environmental issues began in Colorado, where she attended Metropolitan State College in Denver. She edited the Sierra Club's Rocky Mountain Region publication, *Peak & Prairie*, and served on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Environmental Coalition.

Bring your lunch and join us for a stimulating hour. Beverages will be served.

Note: The West Berkeley Library is served by AC Transit buses #51 and #72. Free parking is available in the Smart & Final parking lot near the fence. **Do not park in the library lot.**

--*Eloise Bodine*



Costs of the Berkeley Rent Control Program

The "Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause Ordinance" (Measure D) was approved on June 3, 1980, by Berkeley voters and provided for an annual registration fee of \$12 to finance this program. It held that after the first year, adjustments to the registration fee could be made annually, with City Council approval. On November 2, 1982, the passage of Measure N, a charter amendment initiative that replaced the appointed Rent Board with an elected one, mandated that decisions regarding the registration fee adjustment become the responsibility of the elected Board. The following table shows, by year, Registration Fees, Rent Board Annual Expenditures and full time equivalent staffing levels.

Year*	Registration Fee per Unit	Annual Expenditures	Staff (full-time equivalent)
1980	\$ 12	\$ 321,836	11.0
1981	12	353,557	11.0
1982	30	553,285	11.5
1983	30	647,234	17.0
1984	30	840,622	18.0
1985	60	1,042,751	20.8
1986	60	1,403,784	20.8
1987	80	1,311,370	20.8
1988	80	1,642,014	28.0
1989	100	1,872,919	28.5
1990	100	2,676,378	23.2
1991	136	2,147,112	26.9
1992	125	2,339,755	28.9
1993	125	2,684,478	26.2
1994	115	2,290,370	N/A
1995	115	2,410,200	28.9
1996	112	2,308,000	26.6
1997	112	2,381,500**	24.6**

Increases in annual expenditures have been due primarily to court costs and increases in the number of petitions for rent adjustments.

* Fiscal year beginning July 1

** Proposed for FY 1997

-Doris Maslach, Rent Board Action Committee

From The State To The Counties

CalWORKS (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids), the statewide plan adopted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, is now in the hands of the counties which have to implement it. Alameda County has just completed a 90-day planning project for the program which begins in January, 1998. The Alameda program is called "Make Communities Work," and, believe me, much work lies ahead! The time limits for those receiving benefits are strict, and call for implementation of job placements to serve all recipients by January, 1999. The new requirements limit current adult recipients of AFDC to 24 months of benefits, which means that approximately 1/3 of current families (or 9,000 families in Alameda County), because they have already received aid for more than 60 months, could face losing cash assistance. New adult applications are limited to 18 cumulative months, which may be extended for 6 months. (Those cut off from benefits will continue to receive some assistance for children.) Exemptions from the time limits are extended to parents over 60 years, or those caring for a child who is ill or at risk of foster care (approximately 3,900 families).

We have been asked by LWVC to monitor local implementation. Several Alameda County Leagues are following the County planning process and becoming familiar with the County plan. We were pleased to learn that the County Board of Supervisors has taken the initiative to seek pledges from county employers, both private and public, for jobs, and has explored the needs for transportation and child care. The County Social Service Agency is undergoing a massive staff restructuring to accommodate its new and daunting tasks. Cities and localities are involved, to some extent, in this process: Berkeley's Mayor Dean, for example, has pledged 100 jobs; the East Bay Urban League is hosting a job fair for welfare recipients. But much remains to be done. We need members who are interested to join with the Oakland and Piedmont Leagues in forming focus groups pledged to stay informed and to monitor what happens to the people affected by the change. Our involvement is important. Call the office or contact me directly to share your interest in this vital social policy area of the League.

-Doris Fine

Oral History Transcribers Needed - Try It, You'll Like It!

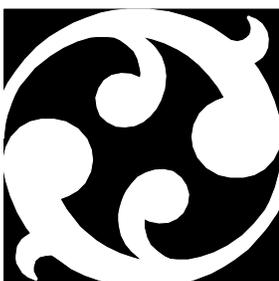
Thanks to the transcription efforts of *Mina Jenner*, the *Gilda Feller* Oral History Project is well on its way to completion! *Gilda* was interviewed two years ago by *Eloise Bodine* and *Therese Pipe*. As a past president of our League and later a member of the Berkeley City Council, *Feller's* was a fascinating interview which should be available before the end of 1997. Stay tuned.

Another oral history transcription in progress concerns *Sally Severance*, a past League president interviewed by *Winnie McLaughlin*, which is being transcribed by *Emma Lue Kopp*. *Emma Lue* is using a League tape recorder with a foot pedal as she works on her home computer. More recently, *Gail Schickele* volunteered to transcribe the *Beth Schickele* videotape completed by *Carol Stone* and *Jane Bergen*. Thank you, *Gail*!

Other oral history interviews still needing transcribers include: *Margaret Dumas*, a past president who was involved in International Relations studies by the League; *Felicia Bock*, a League activist in International Relations; *Bea Fraenkel-Conrat*, a past president who worked on various City of Berkeley commissions and is a UCB scientist; and *Pat Wadleigh*, past president with an impressive list of accomplishments with the League. If you have a home computer, why not consider doing a transcription? We have approximately two hours of tape per interview, and it takes around eight hours of transcription work for one hour of tape. The League has tape recorders to lend to you. We should know by November if we can offer an honorarium for this service.

For more information, leave a message for me at office, 843-8824. Try it - you'll like it.

-*Therese Pipe*, Oral History Project



Observing 2x2 Committee Meetings

About three years ago, our League completed an extensive study of the services and resources available to our children and youth. When asked to observe 2x2 meetings, (2 members of each body), I agreed, thinking that the meetings would be useful in learning how the City of Berkeley and the Berkeley Unified School District cooperate in solving common problems. Since then I have sat through many meetings and wondered if it was possible for our small community to agree upon issues that appear and reappear without firm decisions tied to joint funding.

But the September 2x2 meeting demonstrated how very well our community collaborates for the benefit of our youth, although it took stunning tragedies (deaths of four BHS students) to show how thoughtfully our school people and city agencies can respond to adolescent shock and grief and avoid possible escalation of violence. It was an impressive example of community collaboration to listen to speakers telling of their part in facing the emergency or praising the actions of others who were not present. There was a serious audience for the analysis of the services available in this emergency and also the need for further services.

The two bodies are now moving to set up an Annual Workplan that will tie decisions to budget items for both bodies, particularly on joint operation of recreation and school playgrounds. A joint meeting of the full City Council and School Board is scheduled for November 18.

-*Anne Wallach*

Courts and Citizen Participation: The Court/Community Outreach Task Force

Are you interested in the State court system and how it functions, and/or perplexed by court practices? This is an opportunity for you to share your ideas for making the California courts more user friendly. Among the types of improvements sought are better court practices, better public access to courts, and increased public knowledge of the courts. You may present a 3-minute statement to the Court/Community Outreach Task Force on November 17 in San Francisco at the Administrative Office of the Courts, 202 2nd St., South Tower, between 10 am and 3 pm. If you cannot attend, you may write down your ideas and submit them. For more information, call the Task Force at 415-396-9310.

September UNIT Consensus

- (Continued from Page 1)

play an active role in lobbying and education for UN reform that will allow the UN to appropriately meet the 21st century need to keep world peace, encourage responsible economic and social development, equitably revise its financing, and reform its structure.

The discussion leader was *Jo Ann Price* and recorder was *Mary Jacobson*.

Correction: In the September *Voter*, the word "consensus" was erroneously used throughout the article on page 7, "Getting Down To Business On The LWVUS' UN Position." The five times that "consensus" was used, the word "concurrence" should have been used instead.

-*Jo Ann B. Price*, Action VP

Proposed Mental Health Position

-(Continued from Page 1)

This is the LWV Los Angeles County position (which has many points in common with a study adopted by the LWV San Diego County), with which we are asked to concur:

Support an adequately funded mental health care system which provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management.

Proposed LWVC Library Position

This is the LWV Butte County position (in brief) with which we are asked to concur:

Support a public library system as a basic community service with a long-term, assured, stable and adequate funding source. Support access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society.

-*Phoebe Watts*, Program VP



Holiday Gift Ideas

For Yourself, Relatives, Friends,
Neighbors, Community Groups

1998 LWVC Pocket Calendars - \$2.50 at the office (\$3 mailed). 13-month calendar year format. Attractive reusable cover. Just put in a refill order next year.

Tell It To Washington - \$1.50 or \$2.05 mailed. A How-To guide for action, with names, addresses, and numbers of everyone to contact in the federal government.

If you can't get to the office to read any publication previously reviewed in this column, please call me to arrange to borrow a copy.

-*Lenora Young*, Publications Chair

Bay Area Monitor Project Seeks Volunteers; Local Leagues Benefit

The LWVBA's Monitor Project publishes a bi-monthly newsletter called *The Bay Area Monitor*, which deals with regional issues. In order to have up-to-date information, the Project needs League volunteers to observe regional agencies. *Flossie Lewis* has recently volunteered to observe BART, and *Eva Bansner* now observes the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Regular observers are needed for the Port of Oakland and for AC Transit. The Port Commission meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 3 pm, and AC Transit meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Observers attend the meetings and submit written reports to the Monitor project. Local Leagues receive reimbursement of \$25 per meeting (less volunteer expenses.) To volunteer and also benefit our League, call 843-8824. You may find yourself speaking to the Monitor's recently hired, our very own, *Eloise Bodine*.

Action Update November, 1997

NATIONAL

We have written to Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and to Congressman Dellums, urging them to continue to press for Campaign Finance Reform. Despite the last-minute tactics of Senate Majority Leader Lott to scuttle this year's McCain-Feingold legislation, the League will continue to support this bipartisan approach.

As we wrote to our Senators:

It is time for all Senators to act in the interests of democracy and pass balanced, incremental campaign reform legislation that addresses the most egregious abuses seen in the last election. Such legislation would close the soft money loophole which allows corporations, labor unions, and wealthy individuals to pour money into campaigns. It would also deal with political attack ads disguised as "issue advocacy" which escape all disclosure requirements and undermine accountability.

To Congressman Dellums, we said:

We urge you to vote for practical campaign finance reform now and to lobby your fellow Congressmen/women - especially the House leadership - to put aside narrow partisan differences and allow a vote on this issue. Stalling in an effort to run out the clock on reform will be seen by Americans for what it is - a sham. We want our elected officials to do their job, now that it is abundantly clear that the job of campaign finance reforms needs doing. Our message regarding campaign finance reform? **DON'T COME HOME WITHOUT IT!**

STATE

Action is needed to urge Governor Wilson to sign SB 49, the Online Disclosure Act, which would establish a system for the disclosure of campaign finances and lobbying expenditures on the Internet. This bill has passed both the Senate and Assembly by overwhelming majorities. Your call to the Governor can make all the difference. Here are three ways to reach him: Phone 916-445-2841, E-mail PeteWilson@ca.gov, and FAX 916-445-4633.

-(Continued to Col. 2)

STATE (Continued from Col. 1)

Some points you can make are: the public supports this bill because it eliminates the need to wade through hundreds, even thousands, of pieces of paper to find crucial information about contributions, expenditures and lobbyist expenditures; online disclosure makes public records available immediately; the very purpose of disclosure is defeated if the information is not available to the public in a timely and comprehensive manner.

BAY AREA

In support of the Bay Area's action on AB 495, we wrote to Governor Wilson urging him to sign this bill. This legislation would allow residents of the Bay Area to vote on a measure raising the tax on gasoline by 5 cents/gallon to support needed improvements in public transit. We argued that drivers would benefit when more people are able to use public transit, thereby reducing congestion and pollution. Moreover, since we are the ones who would pay the tax, we believe we should be the ones making the decision to do so (or not).

ALBANY

The Board approved a letter to the Mayor and City Council, and to members of the School Board to urge them to consider opening the 2x2 committee meetings (2 members of each body) to the public. These meetings are held to consider matters of concern to both the schools and the city, and while no official action may be taken, the public has an interest in hearing what is discussed.

BERKELEY

In response to our letter regarding the County Courthouse, the City Manager has informed us that he is forming a task group to work with the County to explore alternatives. The plan is to take a fresh look at site requirements. According to the letter, "The Manager's office will be actively working to retain the courthouse as part of our Civic Center." We will also be actively working to see that this happens.

Compiled by *Doris Fine*

FINANCIAL REPORTS TO THE MEMBERS

For Fiscal Year July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997

(The following figures are drawn from the unaudited books. If the audit results in any changes, the members will be notified.)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE

Fund	Changes in Fund Balances			Balance at 6/30/97
	Balance at 7/01/96	Receipts	Disbursements	
General Fund	41,395	54,145	42,817	52,723
Tribute Fund	1,586	3,672	119	5,139
Endowment	37,600	0	0	37,600
Total Funds	80,581	57,817	42,936	95,462

	Changes in Combined Assets			Assets at 6/30/97
	Assets at 7/01/96	Increase or (Decrease)		
Checking Accounts	10,404	(232)		10,172
Money Market Funds	39,307	13,309		52,616
Benham GNMA Fund	27,227	1,193		28,420
Other Assets	6,663	(2,067)		4,596
Total Assets	83,601	12,203		95,804
Debts	3,020	(2,678)		342
Fund Balances (=Assets less Debts)	80,581	14,881		95,462

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY FOUNDATION

	Changes in Fund Balances			Balance at 6/30/97
	Balance at 7/01/96	Receipts	Disbursements	
Unrestricted Fund	4,292	5,936	3,876	6,352
Traynor Fund	44,933	2,985	360	47,558
Total Funds	49,225	8,921	4,236	53,910

	Changes in Combined Assets			Assets at 6/30/97
	Assets at 7/01/96	Increase or (Decrease)		
Checking Accounts	4,515	366		4,881
Benham GNMA Fund	43,775	2,985		46,760
Benham Prime MMF	1,188	1,081		2,269
Total Assets	49,478	4,432		53,910
Debts	253	(253)		0
Fund Balances	49,225	4,685		53,910

Marion Luten, Treasurer, 1996-97

CALENDAR

October

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

- 29 Wed. 9:30 am Executive Committee *(Fine)*
- 30 Thurs. 7 pm Education Committee *(Brubeck)*

November

- 4 Tues. 7 am - 8pm **Emeryville General Municipal Election - VOTE!**
- 5 Wed. 9 am Board Meeting South Berkeley Library *(Fine)*
- 7 Fri. 4 pm Voter Deadline for Dec.-Jan. Issue LWVBAE Office
- 11 Tues. Veterans Day, LWVBAE Office Closed
- 12 Wed. 1 pm LWVC Positions on Mental Health and Libraries
Albany Public Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany *(Watts)*
- 17 Mon. 7:15 pm Environmental Concerns - Blueprint For A Sustainable Bay Area
(Kunkel)
- 19 Wed. 9 am Action Committee *(Price)*
- 20 Thurs. Noon Speaker Series West Berkeley Library
1125 University Avenue *(Bodine)*
- 26 Wed. 9 am Executive Committee *(Fine)*
- 26 Wed. 1 pm Thanksgiving Holiday LWVBAE Office Closed
From 1 pm Wednesday, November 26, to Monday, December 1

December

- 3 Wed. 9 am Board Meeting South Berkeley Library *(Fine)*
- 4 Thurs. 7 pm Education Committee *(Brubeck)*

LWVC Pocket Calendars

1998 LWVC pocket calendars are available for \$2.50 (\$3.00 for mail order).
Pick up a copy at our office or a meeting, or call the office for a mail delivery.
(Young, Publications Chair)



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