



League of Women Voters Eden Area

# VOTER

Vol.63 #3 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation March 2020

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

# Celebrate Our Legacy

100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S PROGRESS

**POLITICAL • SOCIAL**  
**ECONOMIC • CULTURAL**

**HAYWARD CITY HALL**  
**777 B STREET**  
**HAYWARD CA 94541**  
**MARCH 13, 2020**  
**5 P.M. TO 8 P.M.**

**FREE ADMISSION AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**

**RSVP:** <https://iwd2020hayward.eventbrite.com>

QUESTIONS? E-MAIL [west1@diningforwomen.org](mailto:west1@diningforwomen.org)

# President's Report

For the past few years, the national League (LWVUS) has asked local leagues to meet on “program planning,” but not in the usual way. In the past, local leagues met each January and went over major issues (such as health care) and prioritized which were most important. Then, they reported their results to the LWVUS who compiled the results and used that data to decide what should be the focus of their efforts.



This is no longer the custom because the LWVUS saw a significant issue with voting rights – voter suppression, closing polling places in communities of color, limiting early voting, making registering to vote more difficult, and gerrymandering. They named this focus “The Campaign for Making Democracy Work.” So voting rights has been the focus of the LWVUS for the past few years. This translates to local efforts to increase voter registration, offer candidate forums, and the promotion of voting in general.

The League still asks us to survey our members to check on priorities, which will be the second-tier efforts of the LWVUS and can help us pin down issues we may want to address with local forums. We did this recently at our Open House celebration on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, as part of our Centennial of the League event. Members were asked to name their three top priorities for League attention; the results were Climate Change, Health Care, and Voting Rights.

It was very clear that **Climate Change**, which some now call the Climate Crisis, was a top priority for the majority of our members. This is something our local league will address in the future. Because elections, candidate forums, Pros and Cons, voter registration, and

other efforts relating to a major election are so time consuming for our volunteers, we are not sure when we can offer programs on Climate Change. I wanted to assure all of you that this issue is in the forefront as we plan the future efforts for our league. Currently, Richard Maurer is writing a monthly column on Climate Change for our VOTER; this is just one way we are addressing the issue.

Once the demands of the election season die down, as well as our Centennial celebrations and efforts conclude, we will be holding more programs on Climate Change. Please email me if you are interesting in volunteering for a Climate Change educational forum or other event: [ppeck@slzusd.org](mailto:ppeck@slzusd.org). We would greatly appreciate your assistance!

*Penny Peck, LWVEA President*

## Voter's Edge – Get the Facts Before You Vote

Need more facts before you cast your ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2020? Check out the League's website Voter's Edge: <https://votersedge.org/ca>. The site is maintained by the League and local volunteers who make sure all the information is factual. Candidates can supply information which the volunteers check for accuracy.

The site allows you to enter your address and zip code to find your ballot. Then, you can read about the various candidates and measures. The site is nonprofit and nonpartisan and does not sell your information.





## **LWVEA Open House – Centennial Celebration**



The League of Women Voters Eden Area held an Open House on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 at the Castro Valley Library in celebration of the League's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and to honor the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, giving women the right to voter. Over 40 people were in attendance, including several non-members who heard about the event through the library's calendar.

Refreshments were provided by Jo Loss, who also did a presentation on the work of the League (see photo above). Often we only think about our voter registration efforts, candidate forums, and a few other activities, but the national, state, and local leagues are essential in advocating for our democracy. Jo's speech mentioned many of those areas.

Rita Duncan talked about the efforts of African Americans to obtain their right to vote, even a century after the passage of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Jim Crow laws, the Poll Tax, and even current voter suppression efforts are targeting the African American vote.

Our member Terry Guillory who is a local actress with the San Leandro Players, performed a monologue as Susan B. Anthony, using Anthony's speech on getting arrested for attempting to vote. As always, Terry had the audience on the edge of their seats.

The event concluded with a brief but exciting trivia contest on League history and women's

suffrage. Our winners were Malca Chall (one of our founders and Lifetime member), Joe Gracar, and Hank and Corrine Hansen. Thanks to all who attended!

## **Candidate Forum for Assembly District 20**



*Son Nguyen, Vipam Singh Bajwa, moderator Jo Loss, incumbent Bill Quirk, and Alexis Villalobos*

The League of Women Voters Eden Area held a candidate forum for Assembly District 20 on January 30, 2020, at Hayward City Hall. All of the candidates were able to attend and answer questions from our moderator Jo Loss. The audience offered written questions that were used. Thanks to Hayward City Hall for hosting our event.





*New LWVEA member Theresa Gould registering voters at the BayFair Farmers Market*

## **Voter Registration Efforts**

For the past two months, our league has offered voter registration at several community events, including Chabot College Gladiator Days, the Black Women Organized for Political Action event, the Castro Valley Women's Huddle, the Hayward and Bayfair Farmer's Markets, several local high schools, and our LWVEA Open House and Candidate Forum. Thanks to all our volunteers!

## **CLIMATE CHANGE and GLOBAL WARMING**

by Richard Maurer, LWVEA

### **Part 3**

The story so far: Global climate change is real, is caused by global warming, and is happening at a rate and scope never before seen by man. That reality alone should give us all focus. Warming of the global atmosphere and the ocean has been happening over the last few hundred years primarily due to man's use of fossil (carbon based) fuels to heat,

cook, power and move civilization. This is a fact; we should not waste any more time debating or justifying this understanding. It is based on sound science and reputable scientists around the world. It is not trivial or something we can ignore just because addressing it is inconvenient and expensive.

In the process of burning an ever larger amount of fossil carbon-based fuels, an ever increasing amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) gas has entered the atmosphere, and is now at a level not seen since man has been on earth. This gas has the peculiar, though not unique, property of converting sunlight to heat. Hence, the global atmosphere is heating up. And because the ocean can hold a lot more heat than the atmosphere, the atmosphere in contact with the ocean surface heats the water and stores a lot of heat energy in the global ocean. We can think of the ocean as a huge "heat reservoir". And what goes in a reservoir can come out. Heat does re-enter the atmosphere from the ocean. This is what feeds energy into hurricanes which is then transferred into wind energy and into more moisture (think rain). And the ocean will transmit heat energy back into the atmosphere long after fresh CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere are brought under control if we take action. Therefore, the consequences of global warming will persist into the coming centuries. For how long depends on how soon and how aggressively we get fresh CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under control. We're not doomed, but we need to act now because as they say, 'a pound of prevention is worth a ton of cure'.

Why didn't man get onto this problem sooner? This phenomenon of carbon dioxide heating the atmosphere has been understood by scientists for over a hundred and fifty years. Why has it only "recently" become a big deal? That's a good question. It isn't that we weren't

warned. A 1917 paper by Alexander Graham Bell stated that the unrestricted burning of fossil fuels “would have a sort of greenhouse effect...the net result is the greenhouse becomes a sort of hot-house.” That was a long time ago and maybe we lost his paper. In 1977 Exxon’s own scientists understood the coming problem and informed management, but they successfully hid the report and lobbied against taking action. In 1988, NASA scientist Dr. James Hansen testified to Congress about the threat of global warming, but we still await significant action. And here we are.

In Part 2, we learned that the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere has increased about 45% since the dawn of the modern industrial world. That’s a lot. But how much has the average temperature of the atmosphere increased over this period? That’s harder to answer, but scientists conclude that the world average temperature has increased most of one degree Celsius (1 C) over this period. That doesn’t sound like a lot, but remember that we are talking about the average temperature over the entire earth and exposed to the entire ocean, and this rise has taken place over only a couple hundred years. Yes, the earth has seen much larger temperature changes, but these have taken place over many tens of thousands of years and before man walked the planet. Of most concern is that this atmospheric temperature rise is accelerating, and is currently increasing at about 0.2 deg C per decade.

Will the earth adjust to this rapid temperature change and survive? Oh Yes, the earth, and life in general, will survive, if changed. But humans won’t like the cost, monetary and otherwise, of this continuing rapid and significant change.

Now we know that the atmosphere and ocean are warming above historical

levels, and there will be consequences. How does man know this? We know it because we understand enough physics, chemistry, biology and economics. Just what are the consequences? The consequences of global warming are many and ultimately significant, which will affect our lifestyle, safety and pocketbook. I’m talking here as a culture, as a community. If you are isolated from our culture and community, by wealth and location and choice, then you may not “see” much impact in your lifetime. But for the vast majority of us, we and future generations will be affected.

Consequences of warming the atmosphere will include more deaths of people from heat waves; increased frequency and severity of droughts, with impact on food supplies; increased rain and wind storms, with increased floods; more frequent and intense wildfires; migration of plant and animal species to cooler areas; increased melting of glaciers; decreasing long term fresh water supply from glaciers in Asia and South America; and maybe most dramatically, melting of the Greenland and Antarctic land ice sheets which will cause sea level rise (SLR). Wait, there’s more!

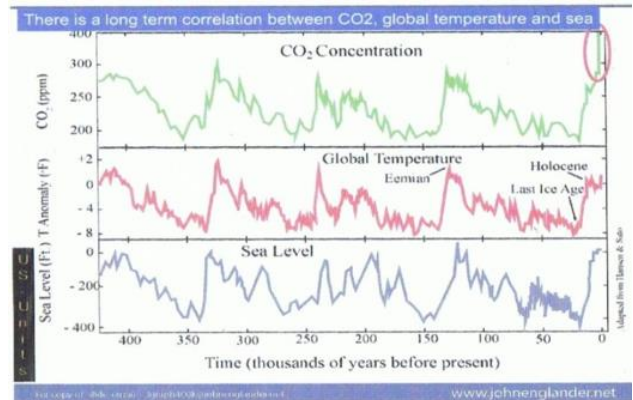
Consequences of warming the ocean include melting of the arctic sea ice; thermal expansion of the ocean water; bleaching and death of coral reefs, and death of their attendant marine organisms; migration of some marine species to cooler waters. Warming of the ocean expands the upper layers which also contributes to SLR. In addition to warming of the ocean, the increased carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere will result in more carbon dioxide being dissolved into the ocean. This will lower the pH of the water, resulting in acidification of the ocean. This will also have dire consequences for coral reefs,

which are habitat for associated sea life. Scientists are witnessing these effects now.

As you can see, we're not kidding about consequences for our ignorance and our inaction on global warming. But we can't afford to get depressed and give up. There are things we can do. We'll get to that, but we're not quite done with the bad news.

All of these consequences have serious implications for the environment itself (physical changes and damage to living organisms) and for our expectations of future priorities and expenditures to adapt to these changes. Community facilities will be impacted, and our civil society will be challenged to cooperate and take mitigating measures. This will be difficult at best, and expensive beyond our experience to date.

There are currently newspaper articles, blog entries, movies and books being written about all of these consequences of global warming, many of which have been underway for some decades. Serious changes to the world we thought was constant are underway. Next time, we will concentrate on one particular consequence of global warming, sea level rise (SLR), because of its potential to impact so many people and communities worldwide, including our Eden Area adjacent to San Francisco Bay. In the meantime, take a look at the following curves which show the long term correlation between atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, global average atmospheric temperature, and sea level. They are provided by oceanographer John Englander who is warning about rising sea level. We'll discuss these curves next time.







# League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/826-6674  
Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro and  
unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,  
Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:

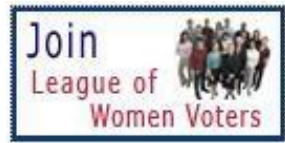
League of Women Voters of Eden Area Treasurer  
P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues:** Regular \$70,  
2<sup>nd</sup> member same household  
\$30, Student free



*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of the public in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

**For our Calendar of upcoming events, go to:**

<https://my.lwv.org/california/eden-area>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Penny Peck, President**  
[Pikly@aol.com](mailto:Pikly@aol.com)

**Carolyn Darcey, Membership**  
[cdarcey@pacbell.net](mailto:cdarcey@pacbell.net)

**Sue Kleebauer, Pros & Cons**  
[sklee2@pacbell.net](mailto:sklee2@pacbell.net)

**Marian Handa, Secretary**  
[marianhanda@comcast.net](mailto:marianhanda@comcast.net)

**Rita Duncan, Membership**  
[freemyheart@yahoo.com](mailto:freemyheart@yahoo.com)

**Richard Maurer, Registration**  
[prmaurer3130@att.net](mailto:prmaurer3130@att.net)

**Henry Hansen, Treasurer**  
[henry\\_hansen@comcast.net](mailto:henry_hansen@comcast.net)

**Lynda Foster, Voter Service**  
[lfentonfoster@gmail.com](mailto:lfentonfoster@gmail.com)

**Jewell Spalding, Positions**  
[jewellspalding@mac.com](mailto:jewellspalding@mac.com)

**Jo Loss, President-Elect**  
[jolosscev@gmail.com](mailto:jolosscev@gmail.com)

**Janice Friesen, Voter Service**  
[jfriesen5490@yahoo.com](mailto:jfriesen5490@yahoo.com)

**Aiwa Zelinsky, Media**  
[aiyz@comcast.net](mailto:aiyz@comcast.net)