



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol.62 #6 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation Sept/Oct 2019

LWVEA Board Retreat Plans Upcoming Year



This year's annual board retreat took place on Aug. 24th at the home of Jo Loss, where we had a great time planning League activities for this upcoming year. With both the 100th anniversary of the League to celebrate, and the 2020 election services to offer, it will be an extremely busy year. Here are the highlights:

100th Anniversary: The 100th anniversary plans include banners in Hayward and San Leandro and displays at our local libraries. We will also be holding at least one special event – either a guest speaker, film showing, or other event. To help with the planning, contact Penny Peck at Pikly@aol.com. Penny and Rita Duncan are coordinating the plans, but our entire board is offering ideas and will be assisting.

Holiday Party and Fundraiser: Our annual holiday party is also our main fundraiser; Jo Loss and Rita Duncan are heading up the team planning this important event. Email Jo at jolosscv@gmail.com to offer your help. Although this will be our first year without Golden State Warriors tickets to auction, we

should still be able to raise funds to support our upcoming events and programs.

League Open House: For the first time, we will combine a new member meeting with program planning and an overview of the LWVEA policies and positions. We will hold this in late January or early February and will include a kick-off of the League's Centennial celebration! More details to come; contact Penny Peck to help in our planning.



International Women's Day: We are committed to cosponsoring the International Women's Day event again this year, to be held at Hayward City Hall in March 2020. The event is sponsored by Dining for Women, and AAUW and the City of Hayward are also co-sponsors. Contact Janice Friesen to volunteer.

Election Services: Lynda Foster and Janice Friesen are planning election services activities for 2020, which will include candidate forums and informational activities on ballot initiatives. Sue Kleebauer and Aiwa Zelinsky are organizing the Pros and Cons presentations; contact them if you would like to be trained as a presenter: sklee2@pacbell.net.

This is just a brief overview of the many activities planned for 2020. We encourage all of our members to volunteer for events!

Penny Peck, LWVEA President

Peace Walk and Climate Crisis Event in Castro Valley – Sept. 21st at 9am



On Saturday, September 21, 2019, the Eden Interfaith Council, Eastbay Regional Parks, Pax Christi, and Samuel Merritt University are hosting an International Peace Walk and Climate Crisis Event. The

League of Women Voters Eden Area and AAUW have been invited to participate.

Where: Lake Chabot Regional Park – Cove Picnic Site, 17600 Lake Chabot Rd., Castro Valley

When: Walk - 9:00 am – 11:30 am (moderate difficulty, all paved)

Day of Peace Celebration – 11:30 am – 1 pm

Who: All our welcome

Register: www.eventbrite.com/e/international-peace-day-celebration-and-multicultural-wellness-walk-tickets-69072518763?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

Fee: Parking fee is waived, but carpools are suggested.

The Day of Peace Celebration includes prayer, song and reflections on the impact of climate change on our health and world peace. Bring your lawn chairs and a picnic lunch to relax and enjoy the celebration following the walk.

Thanks to Linda Slater and Rita Sklar for this information.

Marian Handa Named Volunteer of the Year



On October 9th, Marian Handa will receive the Volunteer of the Year for the League of Women Voters Eden Area Award at the Hayward Volunteer Dinner. Marian serves as our board

secretary and coordinates our voter registration outreach to high schools.

One of Marian's many achievements over the past year is a grant that allowed for a special voter registration program at Tennyson High School in Hayward. Several high school students received stipends as interns, facilitating voter registration activities. Our league was also able to register more than 200 students at San Leandro High School in a morning event.

Congratulations to Marian on this award and thanks for all her dedicated work on this issue.

Welcome New Member Pat



Pat Payne recently joined the LWVEA, but many of you may already know her. This Castro Valley resident is active in Dining for Women, a nonprofit that contributes funds to international women's

projects that focus on financial independence for women. She also was the chairperson of the International Women's Day event in Hayward in March 2019, and is already planning for next

year's event to take place at Hayward City Hall. Pat is originally from Rome, NY, and is retired from her profession as the Director of Business Development for Torrent Laboratories. She also serves as the Treasurer for the Eden Area Foundation. Our league looks forward to cosponsoring the International Women's Day again next year under Pat's leadership.

Report from the LWVBA Day – Equity for Women

WOMEN'S EQUALITY: Global, National & Local Perspectives

On Saturday, August 17th, Carolyn Darcey attended the LWVBA Mini-League Day Workshop celebrating Women's Equality Day – here is her report. "The speakers were wonderful and I want to share some of the important issues that were discussed".

"Through the Lens of Global Gender Equality: Equity, Empowerment & Economic Opportunity."

The first speaker was Kathleen Cha who is the LWVBA vice president and has served seven years as an NGO (nongovernmental organization) delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She spoke about the international issues being addressed by this commission.

CEDAW: The Treaty for Women's Equality

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world. To date, 187 out of 193 United Nations member states have ratified CEDAW.

The United States is one of only six countries- along with Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Palau and Tonga- that have not ratified CEDAW.

There are many national and local actions in progress to address gaps in women's full equality, particularly regarding closing the pay

gap, reducing domestic violence and stopping trafficking.

Kathleen also addressed violence against women which is considered a pandemic! Every 25th of the month is "Orange Day" to prevent violence against women.

"The March Toward Women's Equality: Why We Need the Equal rights Amendment"

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

--Proposed amendment to the Constitution

The second speaker was Robyn Brode Orsini who is a past president of the LWV of Napa County. Robyn has lectured on and written about women in history. She is versed in the background and revival of passing the ERA.

Robyn spoke on why we need the Equal Rights Amendment: to protect all persons, regardless of gender, would enshrine the idea that all persons should receive the same treatment under the law.

There is an effort to finally attain ERA passage. Advocates for ERA passage believe that a deadline extension for ratification can be made. Only one more state is needed for 38 (3/4) of the states to ratify, the minimum required for a constitutional amendment to become law. Passing the ERA is a priority for LWVUS.

Voting Rights in 1920, Equal Rights by 2020!

The remainder of the workshop centered on discussion of what the various Leagues are doing or can do around the issues discussed today. It was an educational workshop and I'm very glad I attended.

Carolyn Darcey, LWVEA Membership Chair



LWVEA Registering Voters at Castro Valley Festival



Lynda Foster and Helynn Rueda at Castro Valley Festival

Thanks to all our volunteers who helped register voters at this year's Castro Valley Fall Festival! Our booth was coordinated by Richard Maurer, where we talked to residents about our league and gave out voter registration information. We registered three people on Saturday, and 21 more on Sunday! Many of those who stopped at our booth took the cards listing the website, to register online.

Webinar on Fair Maps Campaign

PEOPLE POWERED FAIR MAPS CAMPAIGN – Report on the Webinar held 9/4/2019

The Supreme Court declined to set a standard to rein in partisan gerrymandering leaving it up to the State's to address this very important issue. Therefore, the LWV has

initiated a redistricting campaign for all levels of League.

The areas of focus are:

- Ballot Initiative and Referendums
- State Constitutional Options
- State Legislative Fixes
- Federal Legislative Fixes

The redistricting work:

- Advocacy/Education
- Organizing & Mobilizing
- Establish Partnerships
- Implementation
- Protection/Defensive Action
- Litigation

California is further along in redistricting than many states and falls in the focus areas of: Ballot Initiative & Referendums and Federal Legislative Fixes. There are specific work activities planned in these areas. (Refer to the League Management site for details.)

Next Steps:

- This is a campaign that all levels of League can engage in! Where do we fit?
- Work with state leaders to determine how we will engage in the campaign at the local level
- All states will receive a pass-through grant to support this work between now and November
- A gift of \$50, \$500, \$5000 or more enables greater reach to individuals, voters, and elected officials

For more information you can access the webinar recording and slide presentation [on the League Management Site](#).

Carolyn Darcey, LWVEA Membership Chair



Become a Census Ambassador

Are you a trusted messenger and wish to lead outreach in your community? Learn more and sign up to be a Census Ambassador:

The application for Alameda County's Census Ambassador Program is now live! The [Census Ambassador Program](#) is how organizations and individuals sign up to support outreach – by committing to do one of the following:

- Host an event where people can complete the Census! Ideas include: Census Block Party, Census Sabbath potluck, Family Census Night, Census Forum, or another type of gathering that would be engaging for your network!
- Adopt-A-Block – ensure all of your neighbors are counted and are trained to answer their questions!
- Host a Questionnaire Assistance Center – Ideal for nonprofits, schools, clinics, or other sites with regular foot traffic and the ability to host a space for a tablet or computer for Census taking. Sites can use their own technology or request devices from the County. Staffing of sites is not required but welcomed, or sites can request volunteers to provide users with assistance.
- Volunteer to support people at QAC's or to table at events (Numerous opportunities between February – July 2020)
- All Census Ambassadors are provided training and materials for their outreach!

To learn more, check out this [Census Ambassador Program](#) flyer.

Ready to sign-up? [Apply online here!](#) Be ready to describe how, when and where you

plan to support Census 2020 outreach efforts. *Limited funding available to support individuals/organizations with financial need - apply by October 28 to be considered for a mini grant.*

LWVC Says Yes on SB 72 to Make Voter Registration Available at Polling Places

In 2018, California voters had the right to register and vote up to and including Election Day. Unfortunately, most Californians could not access Election Day Registration. This must change! [Please ask your Assemblymember to Vote YES on SB 72!](#)

Passing SB 72 will ensure same day registration works in practice and not just in theory. Last year, most counties limited election day registration to a single site: the county elections office. Those who were able to make the trip waited in lines of up to 4 hours. That's why the League is co-sponsoring SB 72, which will expand Election Day Registration to every voting location starting in 2020. [Act now and urge your Assemblymember to vote YES!](#)

Election Day Registration benefits both voters and elections officials. Not only does Election Day Registration increase voter turnout, it:

- Eliminates deadlines that turn voters away at the moment of highest interest
- Improves the accuracy of voter rolls
- Assists the registration of voters who are underrepresented in our electorate including those who are geographically mobile, lower-income, or young

California has 5.5 million eligible but unregistered voters, a disproportionate number of whom are young, of limited English proficiency, people of color, or people with disabilities. With SB 72, we can close the participation gap and boost voter turnout. [Take Action: Tell your Assemblymember to vote YES on SB 72!](#)



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
2nd member same household
\$30, Student \$25



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>

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