



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

November 2013

Volume 41 Number 4

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The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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BRAVO TO THE VOTER SERVICE TEAM

A big thank you goes out to Linda Davis for all the hours she has put into making this a successful election season.

She has stepped up and organized and trained several members and taken our work to a new level. And Serge Rudaz helped on several critical areas as well.

Thanks to her and those that worked on this project, we had an outstanding Sunnyvale City Council Candidate Forum on October 15th with well over 140 attendees (if not more).

Roberta Hollimon did a terrific job as moderator and other tasks. And thank you to Anita Herrmann, Marilyn Howard, Russ Howard, Nancie Plumb, and Judi Pogue for their efforts as well. We also had a committee that promoted our events and that helped lead to high attendance.

Some of those members have already been acknowledged above but let's thank other volunteers for their help as well - Pat Boyle, Delores Carson, Bruce Kendall, Michael Lusk, Kathi Turner, Rose-Marie Twu, and Bill Wilson.

The other star this season has been Susan Hough who researched and presented the pros and cons of our ballot measures to several groups.

Thank you again to those that worked on our Voter Service area this month. If you'd like to get involved in the next election season, please let me know.

Elaine Manley, President

RECORDINGS OF 2013 LEAGUE ELECTION EVENTS

Pros & Cons on 10/8 – Audio and slides are available from sunnyvalelibrary.org. Click "Library Blogs and Social Media" on the left and then look under podcasts.

Sunnyvale City Council Candidate Forum on 10/15 – Audio and video recordings are available under "Special Events" at webcast.inSunnyvale.com.

SEEKING USER FEEDBACK ON 2013 VOTER SERVICES

If you used League resources for the Sunnyvale election, we want your feedback.

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PBYWP5M> and take our user survey after 10/29.

SmartVoter.org

Unbiased Information on the candidates & measures.

Links to recordings of the candidate forum and pro/con presentation.

Polling place lookup and election results.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

This month's VOTER presents important election information for Sunnyvale voters. See page 1 for resources to help you cast an informed vote. Part of the League's mission is to "encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government."

There are many important meetings occurring in November. Is this the time you will become an "active participant in government?" What are your interests or concerns? Water? Open Space? Aging? Voter Registration? Would you like to be appointed to a commission? Or even elected to public office? You can find a meeting for each of these topics right here in this issue. Pick one to attend.

The League also "influences public policy through education and advocacy." Based on its positions and analysis of the proposed bond measure the League makes the following recommendation to voters who live in the Sunnyvale School District.

Roberta Hollimon

THE LEAGUE RECOMMENDS

Measure G - Sunnyvale School District Bond Measure YES

INDEPENDENT VOTERS INCREASING IN NUMBERS

As of February 2013, Sunnyvale had nearly 57,000 voters: 45% Democratic, 32% no party, 20% Republican, and 3% other parties.

Cupertino had about 27,700 voters: 40% no party, 37% Democratic, 20% Republican, and 3% other parties.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Naturalization Services

League members are once again helping the Registrar of Voters assist new citizens to register vote following the naturalization service.

League members may want to attend the ceremony, to see and experience it at least for their first time—but the commitment and need for registration is only for post-naturalization ceremony from 10:30 to 11:30 am and again from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Campbell Heritage Theater (Winchester and Campbell).

If you would like to help respond to league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

Board Briefs

At its October meeting, your board:

- Received a report on preparations for the October 15th Sunnyvale City Council Candidate Forum.
- Heard that all candidates have placed their information on Smart Voter.
- Learned that League members will be assisting the Registrar of Voters to register new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies.
- Received a report from Marilyn Howard about a meeting with the Cupertino City Manager.
- Decided to cancel the December board meeting.
- Agreed to hold a Program Planning meeting in January.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Pat Castillo and Florence Stafford.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Jack and Elsie Hasling and Carol Weiss.

AN ELECTION WORKER'S STORY

Years ago I volunteered to serve as a precinct clerk for an upcoming election, and my precinct inspector was our long-time League member, Louise Levy. Under her tutelage (and with ROV Training), I mastered the various procedures and polling place processes, and worked along side her at several subsequent elections.

Eventually I also became a precinct inspector usually at a polling place in a local school or family residence, but sometimes in other locations, wherever there was a need. Elections are always interesting experiences including one special election (with Louise) that we conducted by candle-and-flashlight because a heavy December rainstorm knocked out the power to our precinct.

Later I was asked to serve as a Field Inspector where I oversaw an assigned number of precincts in a given geographic area. The Field Inspector completes additional training, provides guidance and support to election officers to ensure the precincts open on time, process voters properly and close on time, efficiently and effectively. Field Inspectors also carry extra supplies if needed, assist election officers when necessary and troubleshoot. They are required to visit each precinct at least twice on election day, a time consuming job if the precincts are widely separated!

Eventually, the Field Inspector Hotline was established at headquarters on Berger Drive and I was asked to serve on it. My colleagues and I have dedicated phone lines and

computers, and we answer questions from the Field Inspectors, tally voter counts, and direct calls to staff as necessary. We begin at 6 AM on election day and leave only after all the precincts have turned their ballots, Results Cartridges and VeriVote printers. If a Precinct Inspector fails to return one or more of these items, a search and rescue team is deployed, occasionally with the assistance of the police department! Many voters vote by mail in Santa Clara County; nevertheless, every general election requires hundreds of polling places and election officers.

The County Registrar conducts elections according to the Election Code and must report results to the California Secretary of State. The Registrar's office works year-round to certify candidates, prepare dozens of different ballots types, organize materials, locate and train election workers, conduct special elections, and has many other responsibilities.

In some places of the world free elections are non-existent and obstacles to voting are egregious. Even in our own country, some states are trying to establish barriers to easy voting. It is an on-going challenge for the League to educate and inform citizens on civic issues and encourage everyone to vote. Take someone with you on Election Day this November 5th and VOTE!!

Suzanne Ford

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT EXPLAINED

I attended a special meeting on October 5th hosted by California Assemblymember Rich Gordon and California State Senator Jerry Hill. The panel was excellent and included:

Anthony Wright – Health Access ED – Statewide

Drew Kyler – Covered California – Associate Government Analyst

Ed Kirycyzun – San Mateo County Health and Human Services – in charge of implementing ACA

Denise Boland – Santa Clara County Social Services – in charge of implementing ACA

Cary Sanders – Pan Ethnic Health Network – goal is to eliminate health care access problems

They gave an overview of the program and then went into how it is being implemented in California. If you are under the age of 64 and do not have health insurance, please take a moment to go to CoveredCA.com or call 1-800-300-1506. If you are 65 and over, you are covered by Medicare and will not be using CoveredCA. This is the Insurance Market Exchange for California for those wanting to purchase insurance. They established relationships with 12

insurance companies and used Kaiser Small Group 30 as their cost measure. Open Enrollment is October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014 or within 60 days of a Life Event like being laid off from your job or divorce, etc. You can search to see if your doctor or hospital is part of the plan by going to CoveredCA.com and researching it. They are adding more information every day so you may have to check back for more details.

There is a penalty for not having coverage and starts at \$95 or 1% of your income whichever is higher. It grows to 2.5% of your income. Use the “Shop and Compare tool” to see your cost. You may find your current plan is more cost effective than this program so it's important to go to the site and enter your numbers as it is specific to your situation.

The County is also set up to help people sign up for their benefits. Their phone numbers are:

Santa Clara County 408-758-3800

San Mateo County 800-223-8383

There will be more events so check the League Calendars and CoveredCA.com for more details.

Elaine Manley, President

HOUSING, COMMUNITY & LONGEVITY: HERE COMES THE AGE WAVE!

Presented by

The Institute for Age-Friendly Housing
With support from Quota International and the
City of Cupertino

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

**Quinlan Community Center
10185 N Stelling Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014**

Interested citizens, elected officials, city staff, service providers, developers, businesses, and service organizations, are invited to the Fifth Annual Silicon Valley Positive Aging Forum "Housing, Community & Longevity: Here Comes the Age Wave."

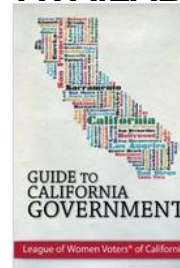
The all-day program will feature experts speaking about new housing and service-delivery models and what the age-wave means to the Silicon Valley.

As a Collaborative Champion of this forum the LWV Cupertino- Sunnyvale will be able to have three representatives attend this meeting. One of these positions is filled but there are two positions available for members to attend without charge. To be one of the two, email your request to: league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

JUDGE ADMITS HE ERRED WHEN HE SUPPORTED INDIANA VOTER PHOTO ID LAW

A federal appeals court judge said he erred when writing a decision which served as a key precursor to the Supreme Court's 2008 ruling upholding the constitutionality of Indiana's voter ID law. Seventh Circuit Judge Richard Posner said his opinion finding the Indiana law constitutional was mistaken, due to the court not having sufficient information about how the law could be used to prevent or discourage people from voting.

THE GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT (G2CG) IS NOW AVAILABLE



It's finally here! Your beloved Guide to California Government has been updated and is hot off the presses. This new edition is a great gift for students, new citizens and policy wonks alike.

The 15th edition of the Guide to California Government is designed to engage and inform readers by emphasizing the public's role in California government. Using handy infographics and icons, this book explains voting and elections logistics, the initiative system, levels of government, state finances, the education system, how to contact your government, and more. You can purchase the book from the local League or through Amazon

APPOINTMENTS TRAINING IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Wednesday, November 13, 5:30-8:00 PM
Mountain View City Hall, Council Chambers
500 Castro St, Mountain View

Ever considered getting involved in your local community as an appointee to a board or commission? Want to know more about how the process works? How do you access the application? Where to find vacancies? How do you navigate the process? Who can help you?

Join the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley, the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Justice Coalition, and a panel of community leaders who serve on boards and commissions for a training that will give you the skills and tools needed to apply for an appointment. California Women Lead Exec. Dir./CEO Rachel Michelin and Office of Edmund G. Brown Jr. Deputy Appointments Sec. Sarah Greenseid will explain why you should consider applying and provide tips on how to successfully navigate the process. With the underrepresentation of Latinos and Asian Pacific Islanders and the number of women in local government decreasing, we want to empower you to apply for appointments to reach equality on boards and commissions.

CA Women Lead is a 501(c)3 issue neutral association of women holding - or interested in holding - elected or appointed office.

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

The Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors invites you to attend a series of board workshops on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

Join us as we host a series of presentations and discussions about the role of the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Santa Clara County water users in this important public policy debate.

All of the following workshops will be held at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Boardroom at 5700 Almaden Expressway in San José.

Topics and speakers are subject to change. Check our website for final board meeting agendas, 10 days prior to each meeting.

Friday, November 8, 9:30 a.m. **Delta Focus I**

Invited speakers:

Russel van Loben Sels, Delta farmer
John Cain, American Rivers
Leo Winternitz, The Nature Conservancy
Carl Wilcox, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Topics:

Perspective of in-Delta users
Habitat restoration and conservation in the Delta

Thursday, November 14, 1 p.m. **Delta Focus II**

Invited speakers:

Jennifer Pierre and David Zippin, ICF International
Martin McCann, President, Jack Benjamin and Associates,
and consulting professor at Stanford University
Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish
and Wildlife

Topics:

Habitat restoration and conservation in the Delta
State of Delta levees and levee stability
Benefits and impacts to the Delta region

Monday, December 9, 9 a.m. **Local Costs and Benefits**

Invited speakers:

John Laird, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Carl Guardino, CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
David Zippin, ICF International
Mark Ebbin, Ebbin, Moser and Skaggs
Chuck Gardner, Hallmark Group

Topics:

Benefits to Santa Clara County
Costs to Santa Clara County (water rates, property taxes)

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District needs your help! Please attend one of the District's Public Workshops and help decide the future of our local open space lands.

What's Happening:

The Open Space District is currently engaged in a comprehensive Open Space Vision planning process that will help prioritize future land conservation, stewardship, public access, and land management decisions over the next 15-20 years.

The process involves 5 public workshops, where community members will help decide the future of our local open space and environment. Once complete, the vision will guide the district's work for the next 15- 20 years.

Why This is Important:

This is not only a great opportunity to help guide the future of open space from Los Gatos to San Carlos and the Coastside, but it is also a chance to stand up to opponents of open space and ensure that their voices are not the only ones heard at these visioning sessions. A group called Citizens Alliance for Property Rights has sent an alert to their supporters encouraging them to participate in the visioning process. While we encourage everyone to be a part of this process, we hope that a range of viewpoints will be present and that participants will not solely be made up of opponents of open space.

What You can Do:

Attend a public workshop in your area and weigh in with your vision for open space, farmlands, and natural resources, now and in the future!

November 16, 2013 1 - 4 p.m

Peninsula Foothills and Baylands Regions

Fair Oaks Community Center - Multipurpose Room
2600 Middlefield Rd.
Redwood City, CA 94063

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale require that the members be given a financial report once a year within five months of the end of the fiscal year. We operate on a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30. Following is a report of the Assets and Liabilities of the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale as of June 30, 2013. This financial report has not been reviewed.

League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale Assets & Liabilities on June 30, 2013

	General Fund	Education Fund	GF & EF
ASSETS			
General Fund	4,720.89	0.00	4,720.89
Permanent Reserves Fund	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Board Discretionary Fund	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Education Fund	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,308.05</u>	<u>2,308.05</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$8,220.89	\$2,308.05	\$10,528.94
LIABILITIES			
Payments to LWVUS & LWVC	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Bills	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NET WORTH			
Net Worth on 6/30/2012	7,325.12	1,668.05	8,993.17
Revenue-Expenditures	<u>895.77</u>	<u>640.00</u>	<u>1,535.77</u>
CURRENT NET WORTH	\$8,220.89	\$2,308.05	\$10,528.94
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET WORTH	\$8,220.89	\$2,308.05	\$10,528.94

Cash in Bank Accounts June 30, 2013

Checking Account	\$4,711.65		\$4,711.65
Savings Account	3,509.24		3,509.24
LWVC Education Fund Account		2,308.05	2,308.05

Questions about the Financial Report should be directed to the Treasurer, Roberta Hollimon, rbhollimon@comcast.net.

LEAGUE NEWS

National – LWVUS announced it has recognized a new local League in Illinois and stated, “LWVUS is pleased to welcome the League of Women Voters of Roselle/Bloomington. This League has shown itself to be dedicated to protecting and strengthening our democracy and we look forward to their future successes. Special thanks are extended to LWV of Illinois for mentoring this new group!”

State -At its recent board meeting, LWVC formed a Master Training Task Force to develop a Toolbox of Training Resources and Special Programs.

County - The County Council will hold training for moderators of candidate forums.

DATES TO SAVE

Saturday December 14

Holiday Party

**Home of Bev and Ric Olsen
611 Hubbard Ave, Santa Clara 95051**

Plan to join fellow League members and guests in a festive atmosphere.

Saturday December 14

**General Meeting
10:30 am-2 pm
475 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto**

Help LWV Palo Alto celebrate their 75th Anniversary as they present a panel discussing:

THE STATUS OF WOMEN: PAST/PRESENT/FUTURE

Carol Christ, former President of Smith College and now on the faculty at UC Berkeley
Judge LaDoris H. Cordell (Retired) and the Independent Police Auditor for the City of San Jose
Myra Strober, Stanford Professor of Education and founding director of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research

An elegant box lunch followed by our Keynote Speaker-TBA

Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to LWVCS to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2923, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

____ \$60 Individual member

Name(s): _____

____ \$90 Two members in a household

Address: _____

____ \$30 Student

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

____ Contribution \$ _____

Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Membership checks are made out to “LWVCS” and are not tax-deductible. Donations to “LWVCS” are also non-deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to “LWVCS Education Fund.”

CALENDAR

November

Tue 5 7am-8pm **Election**
City of Sunnyvale and
Sunnyvale Elementary School District
See smartvoter.org for your polling place

Tue 5 10am-4:30pm **Housing, Community & Longevity:**
Quinlan Community Center
10185 N Stelling Rd, Cupertino 95014

Mon 11 7:30pm **Board Meeting**
Clubhouse at the Commons
Cupertino 95014

December

Sat 7 10:30am-2pm **LWV Palo Alto Anniversary Celebration**
475 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto

Sat 14 TBA **Holiday Party**
Home of Bev and Ric Olsen
611 Hubbard Avenue, Santa Clara 95051

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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FIRST CLASS