



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

December 2013

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JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Date: Saturday, December 14
Time: 10:30 - Noon
Place: Olsen's
 611 Hubbard Avenue
 Santa Clara, 95051

Join other League members for some good food and informed and lively discussion. Come alone or bring your spouse, children, friends, and neighbors. Take a break from the holiday rush and and meet the diverse and interesting people who make up our League.

RSVP Marilyn Howard 408-255-0977 or
league@cs.ca.lwv.net

Put this on your calendar now and plan to come.

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President Elaine Manley
 Vice President Susan Hough
 Treasurer Roberta Hollimon

Directors Suzanne Ford
 Marilyn Howard
 Russ Howard
 Bruce Kendall
 Michael Lusk
 Nancie Plumb
 Jason Spiller
 Katharine Turner

Off Board

VOTER Mailing LaVerne Prentice

SET THE COURSE FOR THE LEAGUE FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

At our January meeting, members will have the opportunity to choose study topics or issues for emphasis for the national League, Bay Area League, County League and the local League. Come and express your opinions.

The meeting will be held January 22, 7:00 PM.

More information on this meeting will be in the January VOTER

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Editor: Roberta Hollimon
 lwvcseditor@comcast.net
 Mailing: LaVerne Prentice

MESSAGE FROM LWVUS PRESIDENT ELISABETH MACNAMARA

November 14, 2013

Dear Leaguer,

Fall is always a busy time in League. Not only is every year an election year somewhere in America, but fall is the time that state Leagues prepare for upcoming legislative sessions; local Leagues plan meet and greets with new members and local elected officials; issue forums abound and at the LWVUS, we are already thinking about next year's convention. As you will see, this week's update includes information on the agriculture update adopted at Convention 2012. It also includes links to the program planning guide for Convention 2014. Program planning is the opportunity for the grassroots to help LWVUS convention set program priorities for the next biennium.

Because we are all in this together, national program planning should not occur in a vacuum. National program priorities must dovetail with state and local priorities, not necessarily in terms of subject, but in terms of the total workload and interests of local Leagues and League members. Program, in the League lexicon, is a term of art that refers to those issues that the League, as a whole, takes up for concerted study and action. Studying a new position or updating an old one also does not occur in a vacuum and requires significant work. For the past several convention cycles, LWVUS has relied on member-experts to gather and organize study materials and develop consensus questions. In addition, like all other League program, whether state and local studies or state and local education and advocacy, national program plays out alongside our ever more important voter service and advocacy activities.

Next year is a federal election year and, in the overwhelming majority of states, a state election year as well. In 2014, voters will go to the polls to decide who will be their governors and who will represent them at the state level as well who will go to Washington. Many years ago, I joined the League because my state League was studying a topic in which I had some expertise. Over the years, my League work has convinced me that there is no issue more important than voter participation. As we witnessed in some high profile 2013 races, one vote can make a big difference. In the Virginia Attorney General's election, as we write, 164 votes separate the two candidates. The process for counting provisional ballots and absentee ballots is turning out to be critical to the outcome. Our work on these issues, as well as in registering, educating and encouraging voters, has never been more important.

Our challenge next year, as always, will be striking the best balance among all the work that we know needs to be done at every level of government and of League.



Board Briefs

At its November meeting, your board:

- Learned that we will help register voters at the naturalization ceremonies in March and May.
- Heard an update on Voter Service activities. (See p.3)
- Adopted our updated Nonpartisan Policy.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Jane Kroll.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Donna and Scot Austin.

Thank you for rejoining: Joan Schulze.

Thank you for donating to the Community Appeal: Lois Chestnutt.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

For those not able to commit to a continuing assignment, here are two opportunities to do a one-time job.

Nominating Committee

Help the Nominating Committee as it prepares to seek members for the board. You will not necessarily have to phone potential candidates but you can if you want.

Finance Committee

Assist the Finance Committee as it prepares for the spring Community Appeal.

Contact league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org and volunteer

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League joined with other organizations in a letter to members of Congress urging them to keep the following principles in mind as they work on the end of year budget agreement. The letter emphasizes that any budget agreement must: end sequestration cuts, protect Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security from benefit cuts and defend core programs for those most at risk.

State -While the LWVC supported SB4, the Fracking Bill, it is far from perfect. We have expressed our concerns in our statement on the Bill and we are committed to monitoring its implementation as the State moves down this new path.

Bay Area - Bay Area League Day will be held Saturday, February 1, 2014. The topic will be, “A New Vision for Bay Area Open Space.” More details in the January VOTER.

County - The County Council will hold training for moderators of candidate forums. Those interested should contact Roberta Hollimon at league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

ELECTION WRAP-UP

It was standing-room only at the Sunnyvale City Council Candidate Forum. Both the Council Chambers and the conference room had an overflow audience. The audience appreciated the new format of having separate question segments for each council seat allowing the attendees to focus on candidates one seat at a time.

Our webmaster, Bruce Kendall, did a wonderful job of posting information on forums and links to other sites on both our website and Smart Voter. All seven candidates for Sunnyvale City Council posted their information on Smart Voter. On election day our website, cs.ca.lwvnet.org, had 223 hits.

Susan Hough gave eight presentations of the pros and cons of ballot measures to a total of 195 people.

Suzanne Ford organized a voter registration table at the Fall Festival in Cupertino.

Leading up to the November 5 election, 23%, nearly a quarter, of our membership contributed to the success of these activities.

Having done a terrific job for the Sunnyvale election, our sights are now turning to 2014, when voters will face choices for offices at every level of government. Some LWVCS board members and Voter Service team members are meeting in January to overview opportunities and challenges that the 2014 election cycle will present. For more information on how you can become involved, send an email message to league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

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

December

- Sat 7 10:30am-2pm **LWV Palo Alto Anniversary Celebration**
475 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto
- Sat 14 10:30 - noon **Holiday Party**
Home of Bev and Ric Olsen
611 Hubbard Avenue, Santa Clara 95051

January

- Mon 13 7:30 **Board Meeting**
Burnett's
729 Stendhal Ln, Cupertino 95014
- Wed 22 7:00 **Program Planning**
Burnett's
729 Stendhal Ln, Cupertino 95014

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

UNITED STATES

- President Barack Obama** 202-456-1414
comments@whitehouse.gov
- Senator Barbara Boxer** 415-403-0100
senator@boxer.senate.gov
- Senator Dianne Feinstein** 415-393-0707
senator@feinstein.senate.gov
- Rep. Mike Honda** 408-558-8075
mike.honda@mail.house.gov

CALIFORNIA

- Governor Jerry Brown** 916-445-2841
governor@governor.ca.gov
- Senator Jim Beall** 408-286-8318
senator.beall@senate.ca.gov
- Senator Jerry Hill** 650-688-6384
senator.hill@senate.ca.gov
- Assemblyman Paul Fong** 408-277-2003
assemblyman.fong@assembly.ca.gov
- Assemblyman Rich Gordon** 650-691-2121
assemblyman.gordon@assembly.ca.gov

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

- Supervisor Dave Cortese** 408-299-5030
dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org
- Supervisor Joe Simitian** 408-299-5050
joe.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

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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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of Cupertino-Sunnyvale
P.O. Box 2923
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

FIRST CLASS