



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

February 2014

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MODERATOR TRAINING OR LEARN TO BE A REFEREE WHILE MAINTAINING DECORUM

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2014

Time: 10:00 AM - Noon

Place: Presbyterian Church of Sunnyvale, Fellowship Hall
728 W. Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale 94087
(near corner of Hollenbeck and Fremont)

Have you always wanted to be a moderator of a candidate forum? Are you a moderator and want to brush up on your skills? Are you a Voter Service Chair and want to know how you should support your moderators? Then this is the training session for you.

According to the League of Women Voters California Education Fund (LWVCEF) publication, *Handbook for Moderators of Candidates Nights*, "The moderator presides, referees, restrains, and exercises a moderating influence over the proceedings. She or he has the authority to call the meeting to order, recognize speakers, call people out of order, banish them from the hall, call a recess, adjust the ground rules to meet unexpected circumstances, and even to adjourn the meeting if things are petering out or have gotten out of control." Does this sound daunting? Don't despair. You will learn everything from the basics, such as how to seat the candidates, to how to handle a disruptive audience member.

This training has been developed by a committee of county League members who are experienced forum participants as planners and as moderators. They will share their expertise and experience with you.

Providing an opportunity for candidates to present themselves and their positions on issues to voters is one of the features of Voter Service that is key to the League's citizen education mission. Come and learn how you can be part of your League's service to the community.

Directions: From the north, 101 South, 85 South, take Fremont Avenue exit, left on Fremont, Church is on right. From the south, north on 85, Fremont Avenue exit, right on Fremont.

For further information, contact Roberta Hollimon, league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org

Roberta Hollimon

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MESSAGE FROM LWVUS PRESIDENT

January 16, 2014

Dear Leaguers,

It looks like a good week for voting rights. Tomorrow, the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is expected to rule on requests from the states of Arizona and Kansas to modify the national mail-in registration form to require documentary proof of citizenship and today, a bipartisan bill to fix the Voting Rights Act was introduced in Congress. These actions are, of course, not the final word on either issue, but each represents a good start to the New Year. *Editor's note: the EAC struck down the Arizona and Kansas modifications of the mail-in registration form.*

The Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 has been carefully crafted to protect the rights of all voters and repair the damage to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 inflicted by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby v. Holder*. This is an important first step, but it will require the League to follow the progress of the legislation closely and will also require continued public education in our communities. Since the *Shelby* decision, we have seen states rush to enact legislation likely to suppress the vote and dozens of cities and towns make changes in their election laws and voting processes, many of which may keep eligible voters from being able to vote. At the state and local level we must remain vigilant.

Similarly, the decision of the EAC is not likely to be the final word with regard to documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote. This is just one step in the lawsuit brought by Kansas and Arizona challenging the constitutionality of the federal mail voter registration application form and the LWVUS, along with LWVAZ and LWVKS, is already involved. This issue is not isolated to Kansas and Arizona and like all our election work, it will require Leagues all across the country to continue educating our communities about the importance of ensuring that every eligible voter has fair and equal access to the polls.

Elisabeth MacNamara, President
LWV

MEETING REMINDER

VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR 2014

Date: Wednesday February 5
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Place: Quinlan Center - Conference Room
10185 N Stelling Road, Cupertino 95014

This year will be an active election year. Come to the planning session in February and find out how you can help.

For more information contact league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

Board Briefs

At its January meeting your board:

- Agreed to conduct a Legislative Interview with Assemblymember Paul Fong
- Learned that we had 100% of the Sunnyvale City Council candidates on Smart Voter.
- Decided to distribute Guide to Government books to schools and libraries.
- Set May 24 as the date for the Annual Meeting.

Member News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Mary Boyle.

Thank you for including a donation with your renewal: Linda Davis and Serge Rudaz, Norma Medlin, Judi Pogue, and Leanne and Charles Untulis.

Donations

Thank you for your donation:
Holly Lofgren

Thank you for making a donation to the Community Appeal:
Martha Plescia..

Opportunities for Involvement

- Join other League members as we conduct the Legislative Interview with Paul Fong.
- Help with the Community Appeal in March.

To help contact the League at league@cs.ca.lwvnet.org.

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League signed on to a letter that asks the U.S. Senate to oppose H.R. 2019. The bill contains a section that would repeal the presidential public financing system. The League believes that the presidential public financing system is necessary to protect citizens against government corruption and to provide presidential candidates with an alternative, citizen-based means to finance their campaigns.

State - LWVC Leadership Council will be held May 16 & 17 at the San Jose Fairmont Hotel. A great opportunity to participate in workshops.

Bay Area - Bay Area League Day - *A New Vision for Bay Area Open Space* will be held Saturday February 1, 10 AM - 2:30 PM, MetroCenter Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607

THE LEAGUES OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Present

SAN FRANCISCO BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN FORUM

Saturday, March 1, 2014

1:00 PM- 3:30 PM

Martin Luther King Jr. Library

Main Meeting Room

150 E San Fernando St, San Jose, CA 95112

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), as proposed, will be one of the boldest and most expensive projects in the history of California and, because much of Santa Clara County relies on water from the San Francisco Bay Delta, the outcome is a critical local concern.

The proposed BDCP, is a complex, program to restore the ecosystem of the fragile Delta, protect endangered species, assure State water system reliability, protect Delta communities from levee failure and much, much more. Whether or not the BDCP will achieve these bold objectives is the focus of the statewide review of the draft plan and its environmental documents.

It is easy to dismiss the BDCP as yet another chapter in the long history of the California water wars that divide Northern California and Southern California, environmentalists and Delta farmers, urban areas and rural communities; this plan is different and must be carefully reviewed and considered. While stakeholders debate the “right solution” to the Delta's problems, all agree the current conditions of the Delta and the State water system are unsustainable.

The Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County are sponsoring a forum to understand the scope of the plan and the various perspectives about it. Join us on March 1, to hear the diverse points-of-view about the BDCP, understand the elements of the plan, how it will be implemented, how much it will cost and who will pay.

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

February

Sat 1 10 AM - 2:30 PM **Bay Area League Day
A New Vision for Bay Area Open Space**
MetroCenter Auditorium
101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Wed 5 7 - 9 PM **Voter Service Planning Meeting**
Quinlan Center - Conference Room
10185 N Stelling Road Cupertino 95014

Sat 8 10 AM - Noon **Moderator Training**
Presbyterian Church of Sunnyvale
Fellowship Hall
728 W. Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale 94087
(near corner of Hollenbeck and Fremont)

March

Sat 1 1:00 PM- 3:30 PM **San Francisco Bay Delta Conservation Plan
Forum**
Martin Luther King Jr. Library
Main Meeting Room
150 E San Fernando St, San Jose, CA 95112

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The 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.

League of Women Voters
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FIRST CLASS