



# VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

Summer 2005

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## In This Issue

Annual Meeting Report	3
Bay Area Agencies	3
Board Briefs	2
Calendar	4
Convention Report	1
League News	3
Looking Back	2
Membership News	2
President's Message	2

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA CONVENTION MAY 2005

Reported by *Fran Grabau*

With vitamins, headache medication and a couple of clothes changes packed in their suitcases, two hundred, more or less, members of the League of Women Voters of California gathered over the weekend of May 20-22, 2005, to work out plans for the next two years. Even before convening there were lots of introductions as members greeted new delegates as well as old friends, exchanged background information and then settled down to serious business.

"It's a New World," the theme of the Convention, reminded the delegates that we are in an ever-changing society. Though we stand with the basic tenets of our organization we must ever be cognizant of the changes that we must consider if we are to be effective in our mission. We met the new Executive Director of the Sacramento office of the League, Jill Kaiser Newcom. She has been at work for quite a few months, managing administration and development.

John Mott-Smith, manager of the Voter Outreach Program of the Secretary of State's Office, presented some of the directions his department is looking at this year. He delighted in the 76% turnout for the Governor Recall election but reminded us that four out of every ten citizens in California are not even registered. He has targeted those non-registered to be reached for making new voters out of them for the next election. That's right down the League's alley!

In presenting the proposed program for the next two years, the Board stressed the fact that local Leagues found themselves stressed by the great number of studies voted in by the 2003 convention. There simply was inadequate time and resources for addressing all of them. The board analyzed the comments for proposals from 51 Leagues as they came up with a recommended Program for 2005-2006.

Recommended Program included Redistricting, State and Local Finances, and Initiative and Referendum Process. Nine motions were presented for debate, and the discussions were on! Caucuses lasted into the late hours. Energy, Civil Liberties, Health Care Reform, Civic Education in the Public Schools, Water, and State Judiciary were topics among motions for consideration.

At the final count, delegates chose Redistricting, State and Local Finances and Health Care Reform as Issues for Education and Advocacy during the next two years. Energy has been given an extension for the continuation of the Study. Much has been done and the League is working with the Utilities Board on this extremely complicated and important issue.

*(continued on page 2)*

### LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

President	Susan Hough
Secretary	Louise Levy
Treasurer	Roberta Hollimon
Directors	Anita Herrmann
	Marilyn Howard
	Jenny Lopresto
	LaVerne Prentice
	Jason Spiller

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Typically, a new organization president will write of the honor of serving and the fine qualities of those who have served before. This buffet of platitudes makes a pleasant introduction, offends no one, and serves to disguise the fact that a brand-new president has as yet very little idea what he or she is doing. I'm all for honoring tradition.

I am relatively new to the League and would happily have sat at the feet of the experts for several more years before feeling trained for the presidency. (I Love these people! We actually have interesting meetings. And they end on time!) The only way this arrangement will work is if all of us remember that the president is not the League. Those who have been serving the community in Voter Service, those who have been nudging local government to do its job as well as possible, those who feel strongly about the League and how it should be run need to remain involved, connected, talking and working and acting together for the common good in the best traditions of the LWV. And if you have been a member for a while but have not dipped your toe into further involvement, preferring just to lend the LWV your name, consider coming to one more event, speaking up on one more issue, than you did last year. Our strength comes from the many folks whose minds, hearts, and points of view go into shaping our positions.

This local League has a tradition to live up to, a tradition of serving the communities of Sunnyvale and Cupertino with the highest standards of nonpartisan civil engagement. I hope that together we can continue the good work.

*Susan*

### CONVENTION *(continued from page 1)*

Our past president, Roberta Hollimon, was central in the development and presentation of the Budget for the next two years. It was outstanding, as were so many of the board's reviews of the work done in the past two years to put the League Administration on a very competent, workable direction. New accounting system, the employment of an Executive Director, positive net income were some of the advances made possible by the intensive work of the board and the support of the local Leagues.

In order to encourage the many new directions for our State League, many of the former officers of the Board agreed to serve again and were elected along with a knowledgeable Board of Directors.

No convention is without some outside speakers. This one was no exception. Bruce McPherson, the newly appointed Secretary of State, spoke at the Saturday evening Banquet. He will have a lot to do, looking at upcoming elections and various financial issues quite prominent in the works.

Kathay Feng, a civil rights attorney, director of Common Cause, was our Friday luncheon speaker. Redistricting was her focus for us, the League itself being in the midst of the concern for change.

Keynote speaker on Saturday was State Senator Sheila Kuehl. Her topic, "Health Care For All" gives you a good indication of some legislation being worked on the Senate.

Not to be forgotten was the Thursday workshop for Smart Voter, held before the convention officially began. Some of the good news was that Smart Voter now has paid off its start-up debts.

We were ready for adjournment some minutes before the scheduled time. I heard on-going discussions and plans among local League groups; ready for 'Education and Advocacy' we had just planned for the next two years. The delegates were ready for work as they scattered back to their California towns. One can't keep these Leaguers quiet for long!

### Board Briefs

At its May meeting, the Board:

- Thanked Marilyn Howard for her work on the Democracy Dinner which will benefit our League with more than \$2,000.
- Approved the proposed budget to be presented to members at Annual Meeting
- Heard a report on the campaign to oppose the three initiatives on the Cupertino ballot
- Heard a report from the Nominating Committee
- Approved a letter to be sent to state representatives supporting SB680, a \$5.00 surcharge on vehicles in Santa Clara County to be used in specified ways.

### Looking Back

**25 years ago:** Members were urged to write to their Senators and Members of Congress in support of Campaign Finance Reform.

**5 years ago:** the Transportation Committee of the Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County planned a general meeting "Heads or Tails for Roads & Rails," to elicit a League response to the proposed 20 year extension of Measure A transit tax.

### Membership News

Welcome new member Laura Moore and returning member Roselyn Friccero.

Thank you for renewing your membership: Pearl Cheng, Suzanne Ford, and Bob Huddleston.

Thank you for including a donation with your renewal: Lynn Briody, Nancy and Don Burnett, Anita Herrmann, Roberta Hollimon, Robin Holmes, Marilyn and Alexander Howard, William Krohn, Louise and Bob Levy, Jo Lucey and returning member Kristine Kelly.

## LEAGUE NEWS

**National** –The League has a long-standing policy of not addressing judicial and political appointments. This was reaffirmed by the LWVUS Board in the January 2005 LWVUS Board Meeting, where the possibility of Supreme Court vacancies and nominations was discussed. The Board stressed the importance of maintaining the League’s well-respected nonpartisan voice by avoiding what is sure to be a highly-charged political struggle.

**State** –The state League board has taken positions of support, opposition, and neutral on the eight state initiatives that have qualified, as of this printing (7/15/05), for the November ballot. Information on these positions will be included in the next VOTER.

### League Internet Sites

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale

[www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org)

LWV Santa Clara County

[www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org)

LWV Bay Area

[www.lwvba-ca.org](http://www.lwvba-ca.org)

Bay Area Monitor

[www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)

LWV California

[www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)

Members [www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly](http://www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly)

LWV United States

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Members: Type:

LWV

password:

Carrie Catt

## 2005 LWVCS ANNUAL MEETING

Twenty-five local League members and a guest from a neighboring League gathered on June 5<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

At the meeting members readopted all local and county positions and adopted three new county positions on Instant Runoff Voting, Voting Systems and Procedures and Water Resources in Santa Clara County

The membership unanimously elected the proposed slate of officers and directors and approved the proposed budget.

## REGIONAL AGENCIES IN THE BAY AREA

*The following is a reprint from the LWV Bay Area VOTER*

“In June, the San Francisco Bay Area Air Quality Management District celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its formation. In 1955 the District was entrusted with regulating stationary sources of air pollution in the nine counties that surround San Francisco Bay. It was the first of the region-wide agencies established in the Bay Area, followed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (1961), Bay Conservation and Development Commission (1965) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (1971). The Regional Water Quality Control Board, a regional division of a State Agency was established in 1950. At the anniversary celebration, the BAAQMD, and the Bay Area in general, were recognized for being in the forefront of environmental protection activities that later spread to the rest of the nation. In the future, the Bay Area and California could also become an important influence in addressing global warming, such as reducing greenhouse emissions.

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area was formed in 1959 not only to address issues of region-wide concern, but also to encourage the coordinated/consolidated decision-making at this level. LWVBA’s main focus is on the decisions made by these regional agencies...”

Linda Craig, President

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

## Help Make Government Work 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 to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2923, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

\_\_\_ \$50 Individual member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$75 Two members in a household

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made out to LWVCS are not tax deductible.