



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

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HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Date: Saturday, December 9
Time: 10 a.m. – 12 noon
Place: Hollimon's
 11155 La Paloma Drive, Cupertino
Who: Members and their families
 Prospective members

Join other League members for some good food and lively conversation! Come alone or bring your spouse, children, friends and neighbors. This is our only event during the year that is primarily for fun. After the hectic election season we can relax and enjoy the holiday season. Who knows, there may even be some serious public policy discussion.

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

Co-president	Susan Hough
Co-president	Elaine Manley
Secretary	Louise Levy
Treasurer	Roberta Hollimon
Directors	Fran Grabau
	Alexander Howard
	Marilyn Howard
	LaVerne Prentice
	Jason Spiller

COMMUNITY MEETING

IF THE WORLD IS FLAT, WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION?

DELAINÉ EASTIN

Date: Monday, November 27
Time: 7 – 9 p.m.
Place: Palo Alto High School – Haymarket Theater
 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto

Join Professor Delaine Eastin in this candid talk about the changing demands on education in a global economy. Professor Eastin is the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Education at Mills College and a former California State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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 Herbert Hoover Elementary School PTA, Palo Alto
 Jordan Middle School PTA, Palo Alto
 PAMP - The Parents' Club of Palo Alto and Menlo Park
 SIPAPA - Spanish Immersion Parent Association of Palo Alto

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the post-election, pre-holiday breathing space! As you'll see elsewhere in this issue, we worked hard on Voter Service during this election season, and we achieved a lot. I am particularly pleased to note that 20 different League members contributed their time and talents to help voters make informed decisions over this election cycle. That's 20 people who may well have thought that voter education was something other people did and they weren't qualified for, but who came along and found a task that was the right size and the right job for their skills and interests. There are often opportunities like that, so don't worry that you don't yet know enough -- coming along to League events is how you learn from the masters. And speaking of coming to League events, note the holiday brunch is approaching rapidly -- please be sure to come even if you are certain you won't know anyone. This is a fascinating group of people, and you will enjoy getting to know them. I know there are those of you who just want to lend your name and your money to a good cause, and that's certainly not a bad thing. But you're missing some of the payoff if you never meet your fellow members. So come to the party! You're all welcome. You don't have to be ready to volunteer for something. You just have to want to eat good brunch food with lively, intelligent, friendly people.

Susan

JUVENILE JUSTICE/DEPENDENCY SYSTEM

Since the LWVC Juvenile Justice/Dependency Study was completed in 1999, several positive changes have occurred. From 2001 to 2004 there was a 6.4 percent reduction in the number of children entering foster care for the first time. During the same time span recurrence also decreased; the percentage of children who experienced a second incident of abuse or neglect within six months declined by 12.4 percent. Children who enter foster care also exit more quickly. The number of children who return home within 12 months has increased by 14.4 percent and, for those unable to return home, the number adopted within two years has increased by 56.7 percent.

Earlier this year California successfully negotiated a foster care Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project. Title IV-E is the primary federal funding source for foster care. This is an uncapped entitlement that can currently be used only for children in out-of-home care. The approval of the waiver project will provide funds for services that will prevent child abuse, protect children within their homes, strengthen families, and divert families from the foster care system. Implementation may occur in up to 20 counties. Los Angeles County, as the lead county on the application, has pre-qualified. Other counties may self-select, subject to state approval of their plans.

This is significant, as it is the first ever waiver granted, and successful implementation in California could offer the same flexibility to other states. The goals of the waiver are in keeping with our positions of prevention and early intervention, a safe and supportive environment for children and flexible use of funds.

Board Briefs

At its November meeting the board:

- Agreed to hold a Voter Service debriefing.
- Heard a report on Pros and Cons presentations.
- Cancelled the December Board Meeting
- Learned that plans are being made to have speakers on non-election topics.
- Heard that we are very successful in getting candidates to enter material on Smart Voter.

Looking Back

15 years ago the League donated copies of *In the Public Interest* by Louise M. Young to the Cupertino and Sunnyvale libraries. The book covers the history of the League from 1920-1970.

10 years ago League members toured NASA Ames Research facilities as part of the Moffet Field Study.

5 years ago our League participated in three studies: Community College, Election Systems, and Urban Renewal.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Josephine Borucki, Jane Kroll, and Frances McDonald.

Thank you for including a contribution with your renewal: Sara Cordell, Eileen Grindeland, Elaine and Scot Manley, and Joan and Albert Wehde.

Welcome new member: Rosalie Eisen.

LEAGUE SERVES VOTERS

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale League is known for its Voter Service but this year we outdid ourselves. From registering voters at festivals to helping in the Registrar's office on election night more than 20 members performed a valuable service for the public.

Marilyn Howard, Voter Service Director, arranged candidate forums, organized voter registration tables and recruited workers.

Kudos to Linda Davis and Susan Hough who gave 30 presentations of the Pros and Cons of ballot measures and reached 853 people. Voters unable to attend one of these meetings were able to view the presentation on the Sunnyvale Library website. Linda and Susan had a team of helpers who scheduled their meetings, helped with translations and played the part of supporters and opponents of the measures. Special thanks to Andrea Harris for scheduling the meetings. She was able to add six new locations for presentations this year. Thanks to Helen Kung for translating the PowerPoint and speaking text into Chinese. Other workers will be acknowledged

below. Benefits to the League from these presentations include two new members who signed up at a pro/con meeting, receipt of an honorarium from one group, a donation from an attendee and an offer of a donation from a business.

We registered 30 new voters at the Cupertino Jubilee and the Diwali Festival and gave out many additional voter registration forms and other information. More than 100 people attended the three candidate forums that were held, one for District Attorney and two for the High School Board and County Office of Education. The forum for the High School Board and County Board of Education was televised on the Cupertino Channel. In the category of "serve the community and help the League," three League members earned money for the League by working past midnight at the Registrar's office sorting the packets that came in from the precincts and two members donated their pay for serving as poll workers to the League.

THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU

Pros and Cons:

Presenters

Linda Davis
Susan Hough

Scheduler

Andrea Harris

Role-players

Bev Olsen
Delores Carson
Robin Holmes
Andrea Harris
Serge Rudaz
Dorothy Givens
Barbara Nune

Sue Kaplan

Liaisons to churches

Anita Hermann
Judi Pogue

Louise Levy

Chinese speaker for basic voting information

Rose-Marie Twu

Translator

Helen Kung

Material distribution

Bob Levy
Kris Kelly

Election Day Phones:

Evelyn Lundstrom

Voter Registration:

Marilyn and Sandy Howard
Bev and Rick Olsen
Roberta Hollimon
Susan Hough
Elaine Manley

Candidate Forums:

Moderators

Roberta Hollimon
Elaine Manley

Timekeepers

Russ Howard
Sandy Howard

Question sorters

Marilyn Howard
Andrea Harris

Poll workers and election night workers:

Susan Hough
Roberta Hollimon
Jason Spiller
Bev and Rick Olsen

Smart Voter Coordinators

Jason Spiller
Sandy Howard

COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The following are excerpts from a far-ranging interview of Dr. Colleen Wilcox, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, conducted by members of the Santa Clara County Leagues' Education Committee on September 18, 2006.

County Offices of Education

The state of California has 58 counties with 58 county superintendents of education. The public elects all 58 boards of trustees and 54 county superintendents. In the other counties, San Diego, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Santa Clara, the board hires the superintendents.

Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE)

Santa Clara County has 32 school districts and 22 charter schools with a total student population of over a half-million and 14,000 teachers. There are 5 districts with less than 1000 students, one with only 45. One-quarter of all students in the county rely on a free lunch program—in some districts it is 80%.

Services provided by the SCCOE are divided into three sections: Administrative Services, Instructional Services and Student Services. Administrative Services include teacher credentialing, analyzing school district budgets and payroll, and acting as an appellate board for student expulsion, interdistrict transfers and charter schools. Instructional Services offers mentor training for teachers as well as supplementary courses, and makes available instructional materials and a research library. Student Services offer special education classes, Head Start and alternative education in smaller, specialized schools with a small teacher-pupil ratio such as for the blind, deaf, severely disabled and autistic. It provides student services for juvenile court cases, correctional ranches, and children of migrant workers who are constantly moving. SCCOE operates Walden West, a science camp during the school year and other camping experiences during summers for migrant and urban kids on very limited funds raised through a foundation.

Equity

Dr. Wilcox discussed the issue of equitable access to education by outlining the Serrano lawsuit to equalize opportunities between the Beverly Hills and Baldwin Park school districts in southern California (negotiated from 1968 to mid-1980s), which was stopped short of its goals when Proposition 13 was passed in 1978. The result prevented schools from “leveling up” to equity and adequacy, and caused the necessity to “level down” instead, from which schools are still suffering.

Adequacy

The premise of the Williams Adequacy Lawsuit, a class action lawsuit filed in San Francisco County Superior Court by Eliezer Williams vs. State of California, was that local education agencies failed to provide public school students adequate access to instructional materials, safe and decent facilities and qualified teachers. The case was settled in 2004 and, as a

result, the state allocated an initial \$138 million in additional funding plus another \$50 million later for schools in the first and second deciles (ranks), later the third decile, as determined by the 2003 Academic Performance Index (API).

Accountability

The State Department of Education has approved changes in the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) that all schools must update and publicize annually. Dr. Wilcox said that the county offices of education are monitoring schools to ensure adequate basic resources in the areas of textbooks, teachers, and facilities. Each school must have its SARC available to the public on demand, and must notify the CCOE monthly of the number of complaints received.

Charter Schools

Groups can file to start a charter school, if they have collected signatures from half the parents +1, or half the teachers +1, of a traditional school. They cannot charge tuition. The district in which the charter school is established is expected to perform oversight of the school, but not run it. Parents may start a foundation if desired. One example of a successful charter school is Downtown College Prep in San Jose. The principal, Jennifer Andaluz, is a successful fundraiser and has raised four times as much money as local schools are able to spend. SCCOE would need three times as much money as is currently allotted by the state per student to run comparable schools.

Other Issues

Dr. Wilcox stated, the most urgent educational needs in California are money and qualified teachers. Childhood obesity is also a problem; currently in California only 25% of students pass health tests and 28% are obese. She left the Chicago suburbs 16 years ago where students were funded at the annual rate of \$12,000 per student. Here in California the rate is approximately \$7000 per student. Much of Dr. Wilcox's time is spent fundraising.

When asked what she would recommend as the most important issue the League of Women Voters could address as a focus for its work at this time, she replied: “Pre-schools”. She put aside concern that 4-year olds would have to attend poorly funded and dilapidated schools by saying, “Not necessarily”, i.e., a new pre-school system would need to be fully funded for adequacy and equity.

When questioned about the greater need for all schools to be so funded, she replied, “It won't happen any time soon”.

Reported by Ruth Lacey and Nancy Rogers LWVPA

LEAGUE NEWS

National

The LWVUS announced that the scope of the Immigration Study is to include the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration.

State

LWVC announced that it is building a toolbox on the members only Web site. The most recent posting is the publication *Writing for League*. In addition, they have posted the Glossary in the toolbox separately.

Bay Area

The Bay Area League announced that the subject for Bay Area League Day to be held Saturday, January 27, is "Vision for the Future of the Bay Area; Focus on Housing."

County

The County League presented testimony to the Santa Clara Valley Water District requesting that the District establish a time-certain process for review of the municipalities adopting and utilization of the District's guidelines and standards for creeks and streams

LWVC CONVENTION 2007

SAVE THE DATE—"Rally in the Valley" in Bakersfield, California, May 18-20, 2007.

Join Leaguers from around the state for Convention 2007. We will have the opportunity to learn how to make our Leagues stronger, learn about the great things that League members are doing throughout the state, and determine the future of the LWVC for the next two years.

We want Convention 2007 to meet the needs and expectations of the attendees. Please contact Donna Chipps (evp@lwvc.org) with your ideas about workshops and speakers.

Wondering what there is to do in Bakersfield when you come to "Rally in the Valley" in May 2007? How about a three-hour tour? The Kern County Water Agency's 2,800 acres of underground water storage aquifers hold drinking water for Los Angeles and irrigation water for Southern Valley farmers who grow your food and fiber. You will see birds and critters on this informative tour of this world-renowned geological formation.

Let us know if you are interested in this pre-convention tour on Thursday, May 17, 2007. Please ask your local League to survey members who would like to attend this low-cost tour, which includes a chartered bus, local goodies to snack on and a guided tour with agency staff.

Email your response to: convention@lwvc.org

Donna Chipps, Executive Vice President, evp@lwvc.org

LEAGUE WEBSITES

National	www.lwv.org
State	www.ca.lwv.org
Bay Area	www.lwvba-ca.org
County	www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org
Local	www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org

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.