



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

February 2008

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In This Issue

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Bay Area League Day | 3 |
| Board Briefs | 2 |
| Calendar | 6 |
| Grassroots Day | 1 |
| Juvenile Hall | 4 |
| Leadership Council | 5 |
| League News | 5 |
| Membership News | 2 |
| President's Message | 2 |
| Publications | 5 |

GRASSROOTS DAY *aka Program Planning*

Tuesday, January 12, 2008
7:00 – 9:00 PM

or

Wednesday, February 13, 2008
10:00 AM– 12:00 Noon

Congregational Community Church of Sunnyvale
1112 S. Bernardo, Sunnyvale (at Remington)

Join fellow League members and express your opinion on what you think should be League program at the National, Bay Area and Local levels.

League Program originates with League members. Program Planning is the process by which members (the grassroots) decide if we need a new study, an update of one of our existing positions, or possibly to drop a position that is no longer needed.

Program is the basis for both education and action efforts. It consists of those governmental issues that League members agree to choose for study and action.

The results of our meeting will be transmitted to the national League and the Bay Area League. If there is enough interest from other Leagues, a study will be recommended to delegates to the national convention to be held in Portland, Oregon, June 13 – 17 and the Bay Area League Convention to be held May 31. A majority vote of the delegates is needed to adopt a study.

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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| Editor: | Roberta Hollimon |
| mailing | Dorothy Givens |
| | Fran Grabau |
| | LaVerne Prentice |

VOTE VOTE VOTE

ELECTION DAY FEBRUARY 5

**GO TO SMART VOTER FOR INFORMATION ON
THE CANDIDATES AND MEASURES**

www.smartvoter.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's that time of the year when we review our positions and determine if they still apply or if we need to update them. We also determine the focus for the year. We'd love your input so please join us at one of the meetings - either Feb 12 or Feb 13. We are also planning a lunchtime program for March 12 so watch for more information on that. We continue to do candidate forums and pro/con presentations. There are some things we'd like to also do but need the personpower so if you have a few hours available, please let me know. You'll be helping to keep democracy working in our area.

Elaine

GOT TIME?

The Nominating Committee and the Budget Committee are beginning to plan for the next League year which begins in July. Do you have time to devote to the League?

The Budget Committee could use a few members to help develop next year's budget which is presented to members to adopt at the Annual Meeting in June. It requires two or three hours of work which will probably take place in March.

The Nominating Committee will begin its work soon looking for members who are willing to take on the work of the League. The board meets once a month for one or two hours. Some board members take on what we call a "portfolio" of work such as Voter Service, Action, Education, and Environment. Others serve without portfolio but step in and help when there is a need: calling candidates for Smart Voter, helping with the Community Appeal, planning the Annual Meeting. Serving on the board can be very fulfilling and even fun. As one board member said, "I say yes to serving on the board because it involves spending time with intelligent, interesting people who are active in their communities and in other areas of their lives. The cookies are a much smaller draw than the conversation, I promise!"

If you would like to serve, contact Elaine Manley.

Board Briefs

At its January meeting your board:

- Learned that Linda Davis and Susan Hough will be giving Pros and Cons presentations on the February Ballot Measures.
- Heard from our Bay Area Rep, Fran Grabau, that Bay Area Day, to be held February 22, will feature Transportation Solutions to Climate Change.
- Decided to invite representatives of the three school districts in Cupertino and Sunnyvale to speak at our March meeting.
- Agreed to hold the Community Appeal in early March.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Barbara Beyda, Mary Boyle, Elsie Conly, Patricia Dentinger, Bruce Kendall, Helen Morris, Liz Mulford, June Padilla and Pete Warburton.

Thanks for including a donation with your dues: Kirsten Holmquist and Leanne and Charles Untulis.

Thank you Patricia Dentinger and Liz Mulford for your contributions to the Community Appeal.

Welcome to Marilyn Collins who has transferred from LWV North and Central San Mateo County and new member Max Kaehn.

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY
Transportation Solutions to Climate Change

Friday, February 22, 2008

Nile Hall Preservation Park in Downtown Oakland
(12th Street and Martin Luther King Way)

9:00 a.m. – Registration and Refreshments

9:30 a.m. – Program

9:45 a.m. – Keynote: The Regional Transportation Plan 2035 and Climate Change

Therese McMillan, Deputy Executive Director of Policy, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

10:30 a.m. – Morning Panel: Perspectives on the Regional Plan and Funding Options

Stuart Cohen, Executive Director, Transportation and Land Use Coalition

Robert McCleary, Executive Director, Contra Costa Transit Authority

Bob Allen, Transportation & Housing Program Director, Urban Habitat

12 p.m. – Lunch

1:00 p.m. – Afternoon Panel 1: Safe Routes to Schools and Other Local Solutions

Jim Smith, Public Information Officer, Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Rochelle Wheeler, Program Coordinator, Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority

1:45 p.m. – Afternoon Panel 2: Sub-Regional Bus Service and Pedestrian/Bicycle Options

Robert Raburn, East Bay Bicycle Coalition

Representative from Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

To register in advance, send a check for \$25 (or \$15 if not having lunch) payable to the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area to the address below, or to instead register online, visit www.lwvbayarea.org/BALD.html. The deadline for pre-paid registration is Wednesday, February 13, after which the cost increases to the day-of-registration fee of \$30.

A LOOK AT JUVENILE HALL

October 23, 2007, meeting with James Hill, Supervising Group Counselor
County of Santa Clara Probation Department, Juvenile Division

Members of the Los Altos-Mountain View League of Women Voters Study Committee on Juvenile Justice met with Mr. Hill at the County of Santa Clara Probation Department, Juvenile Division, for information about and a tour of Juvenile Hall. Members of the study committee attending were Crownie Billik, Barbara Emerich and Laura Casas Frier; joined by Nancy Rogers of the Santa Clara County Leagues of Women Voters Education Committee.

Mr. Hill conducted a tour of the facility while explaining each area and function. We heard statistics about those incarcerated in county juvenile facilities as well as those released to their parents or custodians and assigned to other programs depending upon the extent of their offenses.

We saw where minors who have been arrested are admitted to Juvenile Hall, where he/she is interviewed by a Probation Officer who will determine whether he/she can be released to the custody of parents. If admitted to Juvenile Hall each is seen by a nurse immediately for a medical assessment and if detained more than three days will be seen by a doctor, a mental health counselor, and referred to a dentist if needed.

We were shown rooms where internees live while awaiting adjudication or placement elsewhere. The unit we saw was for two people. It had cement walls, floors and pedestals for mattresses and bedding, a window between the beds, and a stainless steel combination of washbowl and toilet in the corner.

The children are provided with and required to attend school while they are living at Juvenile Hall. The Osborne School is run by the Santa Clara County Office of Education in compliance with the State Education Code. It provides five sixty-minute classes five days a week. Life skills classes are also offered by community-based organizations. All minors are assessed by the

mental health staff to determine if mental health services are needed while they are at Juvenile Hall. A medical clinic is operated on site by the Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System, and nursing staff are on duty 24-hours a day. Dental care is provided as well.

Juvenile Hall attends approximately 2000 kids a year. The good news is that 80-85% of them never come back. The bad news is that the remaining 20% come back over and over again. There is need for more alternate schooling after release than is currently available. These kids need continuing training and support in life skills as well as academic and vocational education. 80% of youthful offenders have drug problems. They are unlikely to maintain sobriety without help. Several community organizations provide good programs, but they cannot fill the total need.

The Juvenile Probation Department provides only one Probation Officer for every 50 minors. 80% of offenders belong to gangs which, in addition to drug addiction, are powerful influences upon recently released minors. More intensive supervision is badly needed, especially because the public schools are seldom willing to take these children back after their term of incarceration. Complicating the problem is that most of these minors were behind in school when they were arrested. In-school, preventive and corrective programs work best, but the schools are not staffed for this need.

Good elected representatives to contact about juvenile justice issues are Santa Clara County Supervisors Liz Kniss and Blanca Alvarado, and California State Assembly Member Jim Beall. If possible, excellent professional information might be obtained from Leonard Edwards, Judge-in-Residence for the Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Council of California, based in San Francisco, formerly Judge of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County before his retirement in 2006.

*--Reported by Nancy Rogers, League of Women Voters
Palo Alto*

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League and others are urging Senators to co-sponsor the recently introduced bipartisan, bicameral legislation that would repair the presidential public financing system.

The League called on Speaker Nancy Pelosi to establish a new independent, professional entity to assist the House Ethics Committee in properly enforcing the new congressional ethics rules.

State – The state League is joining the campaign to effect fair and open redistricting reform in California. It is calling League members to help get the California Voters FIRST initiative on the ballot, by gathering the needed one million signatures.

County – Presidents of the County Leagues were encouraged to send a full compliment of delegates to the LWVUS Convention to be held in Portland, Oregon, June 13 – 17.

LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS

The LWVEF has once again updated its comprehensive guide to the presidential election process, *Choosing the President 2008*. Read about the participants (the voter, candidates, parties, media, and who gives and who gets the money) and the process (the primaries and caucuses, nominating convention, the general election campaign and Election Day). This book is an essential tool for everyone—students, first-time voters and long-time voters—as we prepare for the 2008 Presidential election. This exceptional guide is being offered at a discounted price of \$11.00! Go to the LWVUS website to place an order.

STATE LEAGUE ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2008 – BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

May 16-18, 2008
Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacramento

Become part of a visionary group of League leaders forging a path for the League into an exciting future. Leadership Council is the place to be for members interested in enhancing their leadership skills and to obtain first-hand the latest information on plans to keep the League relevant and vital in the next century. Hear from LWVUS President Mary Wilson about our future from a national perspective, and from your California leaders on what the LWVC is planning. Be part of a dynamic and forward-thinking team!

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: _____

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Checks made out to LWVCS are not tax deductible.