



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

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The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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MEMBER MEETING

GRASSROOTS DAY aka Program Planning

Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Time: 7 - 9 p.m.

or

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Time: 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Place: Hollimon's
11155 La Paloma Drive, Cupertino

Who: Members and guests

Every two years members have an opportunity to influence the topics that the state League will focus on for the next biennium. Is there an area that needs study and consensus so that we can take action? Is there an issue that needs concerted action?

Come help us form the agenda for the League in California. See page 3 for more information.

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE BAY AREA; FOCUS ON HOUSING

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2007

Time: 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Place: Oak Room, San Mateo City Library
55 West Third Ave., San Mateo

Bay Area League Day is always stimulating and this year's program promises to continue this tradition. Housing is always one of the top concerns of citizens. Learn about housing needs in the Bay Area and what can be done to meet them.

Contact Roberta Hollimon, rhollimom2@cs.com or 408-253-6078 to carpool. More information on page 4.

LEEGA-WIMMAN VULTURE

(votaris californicus)

The markings and morphology of this rare bird are so variable that identification in the field is nearly impossible. Its most reliable physical feature is the feet, often described as “sensible.” Although solitary by nature, they occasionally flock in large numbers, most commonly around the second Tuesday in November in such hot spots as Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Sacramento and Washington DC. In such circumstances, its normally hyperkinetic behavior becomes frenzied.

Despite an abundance of natural enemies and an extreme scarcity of males, the species’ population is stable and may be slowly increasing. This may reflect its amazing persistence, and that its enemies have learned to be circumspect.

Its nest is unkempt and it spends little time there. Its young are well cared for, but learn independence quickly. A preferred nesting material is paper from shredded government documents. An eclectic feeder, its preferred fare is controversy, but it has been observed to eat everything from diet drinks to chocolate cake, with equal gusto. It has been known to attack and maul careless legislators and bureaucrats despite its size disadvantage.

The species is almost never silent and has an incredible repertoire of groans, cackles, snorts, squawks, shrieks, and guffaws. Its call is a single shrill note repeated frequently sounding like, “vote, vote, vote.” For reasons not clearly understood, it can be flushed by a ringing telephone.

Thanks to LWV Western Nevada County.

DONATIONS

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale League received several donations recently. Bev and Rick Olsen and Judith Pogue donated their earnings as poll-workers on election day. Susan Hough, Roberta Hollimon and Jason Spiller donated their pay for working in the Registrar’s office on election night. National Semiconductor made a generous donation to support Linda Davis’ and Susan Hough’s Pros and Cons presentations.

Board Briefs

The Board did not meet in December.

Looking Back

30 years ago LWVCS published a twenty page handbook, *How to Organize A Candidates Fair*.

25 years ago LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale was in the second year of a two-year study of “the airports in our region, especially with regards to the environment with implications for transportation.”

20 years ago members formed a “TV crew” that produced six programs in the series, *Government and You*. The first program was an introduction to the structure of city government, the second dealt with the functioning of city government, other programs looked at county government, special districts, and the process that an individual can follow to enter into government.

15 years ago a statement prepared by the LWVCS Housing Study Committee was presented to the Planning Commission reiterating Cupertino’s obligation to include affordable housing, people-oriented services, and intelligent land use in its growth programming.

10 years ago League members participated in the state League study of Juvenile Justice.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Linda Davis, Dorothy Givens, Serge, Rudaz, Dolly Sandoval.

Thank you for including a contribution with your renewal: Dorothy Givens, Norma Medlin and George Tyson.

GRASSROOTS PLANNING

Every two years members are invited to set the agenda for the League of Women Voters of California for the upcoming biennium, keeping the work of the League a truly grassroots function. Each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of the issues where the League will focus its time, talent and money. It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to make our program vital. This is the first step in the process that ends with the adoption of program by delegates to the LWVC convention in Bakersfield next May.

Members review existing LWVC positions to see whether changes are needed, and recommend priorities for the coming biennium. Are there any positions that need to be updated? Are there state topics or issues that the League should study in order to adopt a position from which to take action? Where should the League focus its state agenda for the coming two years? This could be an agenda geared to action using existing state or national positions, or to educating the community on selected issues.

When recommending an area for concerted action/attention, consider criteria such as these:

- Is this an issue on which legislative or regulatory action is needed? Will political realities permit effective government action during the next two years?

- Is this an issue that would attract participation from the community and our members? Would it entice new members? Diverse members?
- Does this issue involve a need not being well met by other groups?
- Is there member interest and commitment to this topic?
- Could the League play a significant role in impacting community concern and/or public policy decisions on this issue?

Given all this, what exactly do we want to accomplish for the next two years? What do we want for the California of 2009? What issue reflects the reality of League communities statewide? It is time for us to provide our input.

State League positions can be found at www.ca.lwv.org. Under “advocacy” on the left side of the page click on “Stands on Issues” and then click on each category to see the positions in that area.

In addition to deciding the League’s focus at the state level, members will review local positions and decide if they need to be updated. Is there a local issue that needs to be addressed by the Cupertino-Sunnyvale League? Decisions on local issues are made at our Annual Meeting in June.

Some Definitions

ACTION: Steps taken to influence public policy consistent with League positions) e.g. lobbying, testifying, monitoring, media campaign, public forums coalitions litigation).

CONSENSUS: Substantial member agreement; the sense of the group rather than a majority opinion.

POSITION: The stand of the League on a public policy issue and the basis for actions.

POSITION REVIEW: League positions are reviewed by members for clarity, relevance and effectiveness which may result in proposals to clarify or

drop a position. Changing the substance of the position requires an update, new study, or concurrence.

PROGRAM: Governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

STUDY: The process of gathering information for discussion by members with the aim of reaching consensus and establishing a position.

UPDATE: A study of limited scope to reevaluate an existing LWV position in light of new information, changed circumstance and/or conflict with another position, with a view to considering a position change.

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY
VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE BAY AREA; FOCUS ON HOUSING

Saturday, January 27, 2007
Oak Room, San Mateo City Library
55 West Third Ave., San Mateo
Registration and Refreshments – 10 am
Program – 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Keynote – John King, Urban Design writer, San Francisco Chronicle

Successful Smart Growth Design for the Bay Area

Panels:

Bay Area Focusing Our Vision project - Refining regional smart growth criteria, identifying Priority Development Areas and Priority Conservation Areas, and schedule to confirm agreement by local agencies within the region.

Speakers:

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Interim Planning Director,
Bettina Ring, Open Space Council
A local elected official from the regional Joint Policy Committee

New Round of Regional Housing Needs Allocations and Housing Element Updates – Information on legislative changes, criteria for local or sub-regional allocations of affordable housing, and schedule for Housing Element updates.

Speakers:

Gillian Adams, Regional Planner
Duane Bay, San Mateo County Housing Director
A speaker from Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH).

Final program will be available on our website www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org.

Cost: \$10 per person. R.S.V.P. to Tam Hege, Treasurer, by Wed. January 24, 2007 at treasurer@lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org.

DIRECTIONS

FROM THE NORTH: Go South on Highway 280. Take the Highway 92 exit going east. Continue on 92 to the El Camino North exit, turning off onto El Camino. Take El Camino to Third Avenue and turn left.

FROM THE SOUTH: Go North on Highway 280. Take the Highway 92 exit going east. Continue on 92 to the El Camino North exit, turning off onto El Camino. Take El Camino to Third Avenue and turn left.

FROM THE EAST BAY: Take Highway 880 to Highway 92 (Hayward-San Mateo Bridge). Cross the bridge, continuing on 92 until the El Camino North exit. Exit onto El Camino, continuing to Third Avenue, and turn left onto Third.

LEAGUE NEWS

National - The LWVUS joined other organizations in calling for immediate action to curb the worst effects of global warming by enforcing reductions in global warming pollution and promoting clean and efficient sources of energy.

State - LWVC received a grant from the Hewlett Foundation for the study of adequacy in education funding.

“Stories of Democracy”

at the Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue

Children ages 5-12 and their families
Wednesday, January 3, 2007, 3:30-5:00pm
presented by the League of Women Voters

On Wednesday, January 3, 2007, newly elected members of the House and Senate will be sworn in to the 110th United States Congress. Come and enjoy children's stories about representation and voting rights and how democracy works, followed by a hands-on activity. Learn about the important job of a US Senator, from the perspective of a child, and even a dog! Read letters from kids in Washington, DC about what it's like to live in the Nation's Capital.

This is the first program in the DC Democracy Project for Kids. Visit www.youngsuffragists.org or call (408) 867-6126 for more information.

HELP WANTED

Do you have an hour or two (or three) to give to the League? Consider helping in one or more of the following ways:

Nominating Committee – Help select next year's leaders. This involves one or two meetings and a few phone calls. Your time will pay big dividends.

Budget Committee – You don't need to be a CPA. Work with a few other League members to develop a budget for the board to adopt and recommend to the membership. You will be helping set the goals for the League's activities for the next year.

Mail Appeal – Assist with the production of the League's major fundraising effort. If you can't be part of the committee, consider helping at envelope stuffing time. Spend two hours getting letters into envelopes. The work may seem boring but the conversations are always lively.

To volunteer to help with any of these activities, contact Elaine Manley at elaine.manley@comcast.net or 408-246-5022.

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.