



November Meeting: Post-Election Wrap-Up

Monday, November 10, 7:00 pm

Soda Room, Saint Mary's College, Moraga

An evening of political analysis and discussion of future application of the November 2008 election

Speakers are experts in local and national politics:

Marc Sandalow, analyst for KCBS radio and TV

Lisa Vorderbrueggen, Contra Costa Times political columnist

Carla Marinucci San Francisco Chronicle political writer

This event is co-sponsored by St. Mary's College - Moraga and the League. The public is welcome to attend. The League invites attendees to bring their probing questions and predictions of possible political and economic changes to this presentation. Consider it the kick-off for the 2010 election cycle!

Holiday Party

Sunday, December 14

noon to 2:00 pm

Dollar Club House in Rossmoor

Let's gather together in the beautifully decorated Dollar Club House in Rossmoor and enjoy a delicious luncheon cooked by our members. Kick up your heels and relax with a glass of wine provided by the Board - a thank you to members who worked hard this fall season.

Bring a dish to share: an appetizer, entree, salad, or dessert.

This holiday party is a Diablo Valley tradition for all members and their guests - don't miss it!

Please ask at the Rossmoor gate (Tice Valley Blvd and Rossmoor Parkway) for easy directions to the Dollar Club House. For more information, call Annabelle at 933-8806 or Barbara at 945-6172.

Donations will be collected to support the Winter Nights Program.

November, 2008

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Visit our website at



Notes from LWV Diablo Valley President, Ashley Coates



After a busy pre-election season, topped off for many of us with working at the polls on November 4, it will feel good to relax for awhile. Please come to the

Post-Election wrap-up meeting at Saint Mary's College on November 10.

Our annual holiday gathering on December 14 will give us a chance to socialize. Find out what members do when they aren't organizing candidate forums, giving Pros and Cons presentations, and advocating for League positions.

The next VOTER you receive will be in January. We will be "switching gears" to

work more on policy issues and growing our League membership, than on Voter Service. We will be making plans at "Program Planning" (with pizza) on January 29.

Our updated membership directory will be available in print at our Holiday Party. You can request an electronic version (in Excel) by contacting me. If you can't come to the Holiday party and want a printed copy of the directory, you can call our office (283-2235) to request that a copy be mailed to you.

I hope to see you soon at one of our events.

Ashley Coates

ashleyaoc@comcast.net 283-3638

LWVDV Registers 800 Voters Last Chance Registration a Wild Success

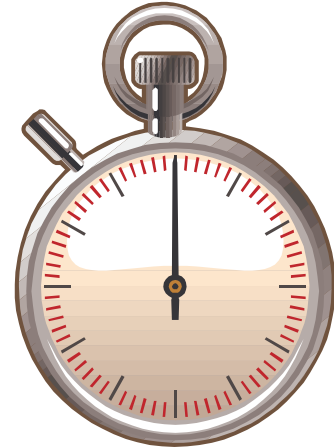
Due to high public interest, good planning and good publicity, our Voter Registration tables at 7 Safeways in Contra Costa County helped over 800 people register or re-register to vote the evening of October 20.

Thanks to Lee Lawrence, Christy Casassa, Joan Lautenberger, and over 40 members of LWVDV!

Diablo Valley's Super Roundtables

By Gwen Watson

For the first three days of October many members of our League spent part or all of the days at 10 Douglas Drive in Martinez, where the Studios of Contra Costa TV are located. As we arrived at 8:00 a.m. with the formats, reply forms, and other program documents, we were welcomed with doughnuts and coffee provided by Lisa Vorderbrueggen, Political Columnist of the Contra Costa Times. By 9:00, the cameras were rolling, the League Timers were clicking their stopwatches, and the candidates were discussing the issues in our community.



With only 15 minutes between shows and a break for lunch, we planned to film ten roundtables a day. Two of our shows didn't materialize, though: The Knightsen School District declined to participate because the candidates felt there were no issues that needed to be discussed. And the roundtable for U.S. Congressional District 11 candidates had to be cancelled because Congress Member McNerney was detained in Washington, DC, to vote on the Economic Bailout Package.

We are grateful to the members who joined us at the studio to serve as Timers: Beverley Bilge, Joan Conley, Phyllis Ceaser, Barbara Owens, Mary Fran Draper, Eunice Kilkenny, Paul Kilkenny, Kay James, Bev Voelker, Barbara Owens, Joan Lautenberger, Lois Garetson, and Linda Soliven, who phoned and

scheduled the Timers. Joyce Kingery and Gwen Watson, Televised Forum Co-Chairs, were assisted by Jean Nickell, Barbara Owens, Linda Soliven, and Lois Garetson.

OUR MODERATORS

Diablo Valley League provided moderators for live forums throughout Contra Costa County. The events and our co-sponsors included:

Assembly District 15, sponsored by the PTA in San Ramon, Moderator Martha Goralka

Clayton City Council, sponsored by AAUW, Moderator Pat Snyder; Timers Karrie Connors and Stacy Hunter

Orinda City Council, sponsored by Orinda Association, Moderator Lee Lawrence

Pinole City Council, sponsored by WCCLWV, Moderator Gwen Watson assisted by Joyce Kingery

West Contra Costa Unified School District, sponsored by WCCLWV, Moderator Ashley Coates

Crockett Election, organized by Diablo Valley League, Joan Lautenberger, Chair; Moderator Joyce Kingery

Hip, Hip, Hooray!! To each of our moderators for their generosity.

It was a tiring, but interesting, three days. When it was over, we all returned to our homes to enjoy watching our broadcasts on Channel 27. It made us proud to know that we had helped to educate the voters of Contra County.

Program Planning Begins

By Jan Howe

We will start planning programs for next year at our meeting on Thursday January 29 and the League office at 6PM. We will start the the Program Planning process in preparation for our Annual Meeting, Bay Area Council, and the State Convention in 2009. We need your ideas on burning issues, policy changes reached through the democratic process of ballots, elections, discourse, and advocacy. All members are invited to attend.

We will be sending Diablo Valley League delegates to the State Convention in Long Beach. At the convention, delegates will decide on the consensus priorities for the state during the next biennium. First, our members have to set their own priorities of focus. Your consensus allows us to share them with the state. We can't do it without you – all of you. Pizza and beverages will be provided. **500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, (925) 283-2235.**

Save the Date

**The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area and
The Bay Area Air Quality Management District**

Invite you to attend:

Public Health and Particulates

Tuesday Dec. 2nd

Preservation Park's Nile Hall in Downtown Oakland

9 am Registration and Breakfast

9:15 am - noon – Forum

NO CHARGE

A public health issue of growing concern: is particulate air pollution, which scientific study has linked to asthma and other serious respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Medical and scientific professionals will discuss these public health impacts and communications experts will explain how local Leagues and other concerned organizations can help increase public awareness on this issue

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has been a long time supporter of our *Bay Area Monitor*. They have asked us to co-sponsor a forum to reach Bay Area decision makers and League members about Public Health and Particulates. The timing of this forum coincides with the start of wood burning season. The BAAQMD is hoping that we can help clear up some of misinformation about the new regulations on wood burning. Please plan to attend.

Why is the State League convention important?

The LWVC Convention in May of 2007 adopted these issues for state supported education and advocacy for the 2007 to 2009 biennium.

1) **Health Care:** The League maintains a position on Single Payer health reform to which all prospective legislation, (ie. ABx11 (Nunez), SB 840 (Kuehl)) for California is gauged.

2) **Education:** The State League's civic education and advocacy was based on the LWVC Education Pre-Kindergarten – grade 12 and Community College System positions. In the biennium, LWVC worked with the California School Boards Association, the California State PTA, and Children Now. Funds were provided by the Hewlett Foundation-funded School Finance Exploratory Project. Advocacy was developed by building coalitions, as well as participating in tracking legislation and ballot measures.

3) **Redistricting:** LWVC has a redistricting position against which it has measured present ballot measures. Up to the election in November, the state League has educated and advocated for redistricting reform with public input

Jan Howe,

Program Chair

NEWS: Delta Unit of LWV of Diablo Valley

By Linda Soliven

The Delta Unit which includes the Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood, Oakley, Knightsen and Bethel Island has formed and set goals for the 2008-2008 year.

Voter Service

1. Each unit member will contact a local high school/
2. Each member will help with local Last Chance voter registration.
3. Since each city holds community events, unit members could register voters during the event. Each member will find out the date, place and time of their particular community's festival.
4. Each member will leave registration forms in accessible places. Besides local post offices, other places to leave forms will be City Hall lobbies and libraries.

Smart Voter

1. Each unit member, upon request, will assist the Chair of Smart Voter by calling or contacting any local candidate as deemed necessary and by screening and monitoring their written material to be placed in the Smart Voter.
2. Each unit member will contact local newspapers to promote activities the Delta Unit sponsors which may include advertising, letters-to-the-editor and personal contact.



Antioch City Hall

Observers

1. Each unit member will consider observing a governmental council in their respective local cities. Unit members can request to be on "list serve" for agendas for city Council and commissions. Brief reports will be given at the monthly meeting of the Delta Unit.

Staffers Needed!

By Barbara Owen

Want to get in on the ground floor? Then don't let this opportunity slip by! Last spring we had 23 days of most months covered by daily staffers, but due to illness, moves and other factors, we're down to only ten days when a dedicated League member is on hand to answer the phone, sort through the mail and help out in any way she/he can.

Here's your chance to learn how our League office works. Call Barb Owens, (925) 945-6172, for an office orientation and become a much needed League staffer!

Membership Recruitment

1. The Delta Unit members will take every opportunity to recruit members from the area.
2. The Delta Unit intends to provide the opportunity for welcoming and orienting new members who reside in the Unit's geographical area.

Presently, the Delta Unit consists of 5 members. We are small but enthusiastic.

We have organized a Pros/Cons event at the Antioch City Council Chamber on October 23 at 7PM. And cordially invite anyone to attend.

Dues Due/ Anniversaries & Member News

If you would like to join or for any membership issues, please contact our Membership Chair, Linda Soliven at bonsaigirl43@att.net.

Welcome New Members!

Jean Howard
2520 Ptarmigan Dr. #2
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
925-954-7110

Gayle Jones Larson
4235 Canyon Crest Rd. W
San Ramon, CA 94582
925-735-3734 or 925-858-6795 (cell)
gaylelarsen@comcast.net

November / December 2008 Membership Renewal List

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership. Please use the form on the back cover and send your dues (\$60 annually or \$90 per household) to our office.

November Renewals

Karrie Connors
Cindy Eisenberg
Clayton Englar
Dr. Robert Fisher
Ms. J. Carroll Foxall
Trudy Gardner
Miriam Glickman
Sharon Godske
Stacy Hunter
Rachel Ireland
Elsa Ludwig
Linda Madden
Eleanor Parker

Susan Phalen
Alpha Quincy
Susan Renno
Don and Sharon Ritchey
Pat Snyder
Linda Soliven
Mildred Starkie
Sherry Sterrett
Janet Thomas
Amy Worth

December Renewals

Kalma Baren
Lucia Brandon
Phyllis Ceaser

Arthur Clark
Ann Flynn
Lois Garetson
Cynthia Gonzales
Dr. Laurel Harken, O.R.
Elise Judy
Cynthia and Ernest Landy
Mary Miller
Barbara Morse
Caroline Moyer
Franz Wassermann
Barbara Wilson
Peggy York

Cold Weather and Financial Hardships Hit Families

By Gwen Watson

The Winter Nights Rotating Shelter opened its fifth season on October 13. Twenty-six congregations, hosting the families with children for one- and two-week stretches, have organized hundreds (probably thousands, actually) of volunteers to cook, clean, be hospitable, tutor, play, and countless other activities.

Winter Nights Guests include a 2-month-old baby girl, a 3-year-old boy, a 4-year-old girl, 7-year-old boy, and 11-year-old boy, two teenage girls, one teenage boy, and their parents. One family—the father is a teacher—is the victim of the subprime debacle.

More potential clients called us before the shelter opened than ever before. We run on caring hearts. What a beautiful thing that eight or so families at a time (plus a few seniors) are sleeping peacefully, eating healthily, and know that they are being cared for during difficult times.

Rev. Brian Stein-Webber, Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County—Sponsor of the Winter Nights Shelter--joins me in thanking the Diablo Valley League for choosing our shelter as the recipient of donations from the LWV-DV Holiday Party.

--Gwen Watson, Director Winter Nights Shelter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DIABLO VALLEY
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE of INTERESTS AND INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ E-mail: _____

WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF AVAILABILITY for assisting with League activities?

[] MONTHLY [] OCCASIONALLY [] NOT THIS YEAR [] NEXT YEAR

If you have experience or were to receive training from an experienced League member, check each activity in which you would consider participation:

- Help at candidates forums
- Present information on ballot measures
- Register Voters
- Staff the League Office a morning or afternoon once or more per month.
- Observe/report on local School Board, City Council, Board of Supervisors, etc. meetings
- Deliver Voter Registration materials
- Write letters or make phone calls
- Bookkeeping or Accounting
- Perform League activities in my area of residence
- Use computer skills:(Circle) Word, Excel, Desktop Publishing, other _____
- Translate in another language: _____
- Use Publicity/Marketing skills
- Serve as a Member of the Board of Directors
- Assist Newsletter Editor as Proof-reader
- Use Website Master skills
- Other: _____

In order to receive communications on and actions for, please check your ISSUE ITEMS of interest:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> International Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Justice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Finance Reform | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Libraries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Liberties | <input type="checkbox"/> Redistricting Reform |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County/City General Plans | <input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive Choice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability/Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gun Violence Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Welfare Reform |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | |

Please return by:

POST:

E-MAIL: lvvdvoffice@gmail.com

FAX: 925-283-2613

League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA
94549

Membership Form and Calendar

Join the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley

Membership is not based on ability to pay. To pay alternate dues or request a scholarship, please contact membership chair Linda Solven at the League office by calling (925) 283-2235. Person under 18 may join as associate members (nonvoting).

- ___ \$60 Regular dues
___ \$30 Additional Household member
___ \$60 Gift Membership for _____
___ \$25 Student / Associate

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

Send your check made out to LWVDV to:

LWVDV, 500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

Donations to the LWV Education Fund are tax-deductible.

Please plan on attending our next meeting. Bring a friend or call our office to carpool at (925) 283-2235.

League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley

500 St. Mary's Road #14

Lafayette, CA 94549

Calendar:

November 10 Election Wrap-Up

December 2 Public Health and Particulates

December 14 Holiday Party

January 29 Program Planning Meeting

How can you PARTICIPATE in League work?

What SKILLS can you share?

**TELL US HOW YOU WANT TO
BE INVOLVED.**

**COMPLETE THE SURVEY IN
THIS VOTER**

**AND SEND OR BRING IT TO
THE LEAGUE OFFICE.**

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WALNUT CREEK, CA
PERMIT NO, 575**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.