

LWVBA VOTER



League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area



May 2017

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area



Biennial Council

SAN FRANCISCO BAY MODEL
VISITORS CENTER
2100 BRIDGEWAY | SAUSALITO CA

APRIL 29, 2017
9:30 - 12:00 PM

\$25 PER LEAGUE
2 VOTING MEMBERS PER LEAGUE
OR
\$10 FOR EACH NON VOTING LEAGUE MEMBER

TICKETS: <http://bit.ly/2okcTqp>

TICKETS BY MAIL: LWVBA League of Women Voters Bay Area Attn:
Biennial Council 436 14th Street, Suite 1213 Oakland, CA 94612

MORE INFORMATION: lwvbayarea.org/council

9:30 A.M. REGISTRATION and CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

10:00 A.M. BUSINESS MEETING

11:00 SPEAKER, MELISSA BREACH, LWVC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A LEAGUE TRIBUTE TO YVONNE SAN JULE KOSHLAND

The following was written by Linda Craig, in consultation with Leslie Stewart, Sally Germain, and Sherry Smith. The photo above shows Yvonne (at right) with Cynthia Kroll at a social gathering of past and present ABAG staff in 2015.

Yvonne San Jule Koshland, who passed away on March 29, 2017 at age 94, played many important roles in the success of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area.

Many long-time League members worked with Yvonne on regional issues while she was a Senior Regional Planner with the Association of Bay Area Governments in the 1970s and 80s.

She joined LWV Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville in 1990, and soon became active with LWV Bay Area. She followed the progress of the Bay Area Governmental Consolidation Act of 1992, which failed in the last days of the legislative session that fall. She then joined the LWVBA Board in 1993 and contributed to materials on the California Environmental Quality Act, as well as a report on Local Agency Formation Commissions and Congestion Management Agencies. As Second Vice President of LWVBA, she led the two-year regional study *Regional Planning, Regional Governance, and Funding of Regional Planning and Implementation*. This major review of the League's keystone Bay Area positions was completed in 2000.

After marrying Dan Koshland in 2000, she moved to Lafayette, and continued on the LWVBA board until 2002. She then led a project to evaluate new legislation regarding the role of the Local Agency Formation Commissions in the nine counties of the Bay Area.

Over all of these years, Yvonne was a member of the *Bay Area Monitor* Project Committee, and made a significant financial contribution to the *Monitor* in 2015. Sherry Smith, a current LWVBA board member and former president of LWV Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville, remembers Yvonne's intellect, gracious but determined manner, and her generosity to the League.

She is survived by her children Philip Keene, Elodie Keene, and Tamsen Calhoun. Her son, Christopher Keene, died in 1995.

Messages of condolence may be sent to her granddaughter, Ariel Fortune, at 76 The Plaza, Berkeley, CA 94705.

New LWVBA Board Assignment

Kathleen Cha from the LWV Oakland League and Ann Draper from the South San Mateo County League have been members of the board for about a year. Both leaders started their League board career as “at large” members. Now taking on news roles within the board, Kathleen Cha is our Regional Government Director who will focus on regional land use and planning and the potential information of new regional agency with the merger of ABAG and MTC. Ann Draper will take on the portfolio of Natural Resources, which will include air quality, water, and climate change.

Lianne Campodonico Administrative President, will chair the Inter-league North meetings. Roma Dawson continues as Housing Director and liaison to Inter-League South meetings. Roma lead the organizing team on the 2017 Bay Area League Day focus on Housing. Big thank you to Roma. After a brief absence, Nancy Ianni has returned to our Board as an at-large member.

At this time, all portfolio seats are filled. The LWVBA board is a committed, hard working group. The Bay Area board focuses on governmental issues within the 20 Local Leagues in 9 Bay Area counties. If you have interested in the intersection of regional issues and fun please write to Mary Alice Thornton at 4mat@sbcglobal.net. This is a great opportunity for any league members looking to expand their league career. Last year, Gloria Chun Hoo joined the LWVC state board after her tenure on the LWVBA board. Special thank you to exiting board member Janet Blumenkrantz from the Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville League.

LWVBA Observers Needed

All regional agencies are mandated to provide open meetings to the community. LWVBA needs you to help us attend or e-attend meetings, then email a summary paragraph of the hot topics. We only need a few lines to provide us with a brief meeting update. If you would like to be a regular e-observer or an occasional e-observer, please send a note to communications@lwvba.org. Observers needed for the following agencies:

➤ **Bay Area Air Quality District (BAAQD)**, the mission is to protect and improve public health, air quality, and the global climate through programs and policies founded on science and technical expertise. BAAQD meets the 1st & 3rd Wed of ea. mo., 9:45am at the Air District’s office in San Francisco.

➤ **Bay Conservation and Development (BCDC)**, their mission is to protect & enhance San Francisco Bay & encourage the Bay’s responsible & productive usage. BCDC meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of ea. mo. at the MetroCenter Auditorium in Oakland.

➤ **Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)**, their mission is to develop & enforce water quality objectives & implement plans that will best protect the State’s waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of ea. mo. at 9:00 am at the Elihu M. Harris Building in San Francisco.

➤ **San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transit Authority (WETA)** a regional public transit agency tasked with operating & expanding ferry service on the San Francisco Bay. Meetings are held 2nd Thurs. of ea. mo. 1:00pm, Ferry Building, San Francisco.

Plan Bay Area 2040



MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have just released the Draft Plan Bay Area 2040. After two years of public discussion and technical work, the Draft Plan Bay Area 2040 is an updated long-range Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

Review the plan: <http://www.planbayarea.org/2040-plan/access-plan>

MTC Outreach Draft Plan

MTC plans a series of outreach events in the form of an Open House Defined as a more relaxed setting with stations for detailed viewing. 1 in each County is planned in the upcoming month of May. This is an opportunity to ask questions on a one-on-one setting; Only 3-Public Meetings will be held in Vallejo, San Francisco, and San Jose. Public Meetings are more formal than an Open House event with speakers, PowerPoint presentations and public comments, and Presentation Briefings which are organized by the Congestion Management Agencies (CMA.) These events are open to the public and accept public comments. Nice events are planned in the 9-Bay Area Counties.

In the following pages you'll find calendars of each meeting type and a combined Calendar of events at the end of this report.

Submit Comments: You may submit comments on the Draft EIR during the 45-day review period, which begins **April 17, 2017 and ends June 1, 2017**. All comments received or postmarked by June 1, 2017 will be accepted as timely. Please refer to Plan Bay Area 2040 RTP/SCS EIR in your comments.

Can't Attend an Open Meeting?

Join the online discussion at planbayarea.org or share your thoughts on Facebook or Twitter. Note that if you need an interpreter or other assistance in order to participate, we require three days' notice in order to provide reasonable accommodation. For more information, call (415) 778-6757 or (415) 778-6769 for TDD/TTY.

MTC Event Schedule

1. Open House Dates (listed in alphabetical order by County)

Defined as a more relaxed setting with stations for detailed viewing. This is an opportunity to ask questions on a one-on-one setting.

Each open house will feature multiple stations at which participants will be able to view displays and offer comments on ways to maintain the Bay Area's transportation networks; accommodate projected population growth; preserve open space; meet state mandates for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks; improve public health; and achieve other regional goals. Dates, times and locations for the open houses include:

- **May 4th - Alameda County:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Fremont City Hall, Council Chambers, 33300 Capitol Ave., Fremont
- **May 10th - Contra Costa County:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Embassy Suites Hotel, Contra Costa Ballroom, 1345 Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek
- **May 20th - Marin County:** Public Workshop & Open House; 8:30am Reg./Open House, 9-1 pm Presentation Open House, Mill Valley Community Ctr., 180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley
- **May 15th - Napa County:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Elks Lodge, 2840 Soscol Avenue, Napa
- **May 17th - San Francisco County:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Bay Area Metro Ctr., Yerba Buena Conf. Rm., 375 Beale St., San Francisco
- **May 4th - San Mateo County:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Sequoia High School, Multi-Purpose Rm., 1201 Brewster Ave., Redwood City
- **May 22nd - Santa Clara County:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Marriott Hotel, San Jose Ballroom IV-VI, 301 So. Market St., San Jose
- **May 15 - Solano County:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street, Fairfield
- **May 22nd - Sonoma County:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Finley Community Ctr., 2060 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa

2. Public Meeting Dates

A more formal event with speakers, PowerPoint presentations and public comments.

May 12, 2017 Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee (9:40 am of immediately following the Legislation Committee, whichever occurs later) at Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, CA

May 16, 2017 MTC Public Meeting (6:00 pm) at Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 150 E. San Fernando Street, Room 225, San Jose, CA

May 18, 2017 MTC Public Meeting (6:00 pm) at Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, Hall of History, 734 Marin Street, Vallejo, CA

3. CMA Presentation Briefings

Draft Plan Bay Area 2040 CMA Presentations

CMA	Full Name of Agency	Meeting Day	Location
San Mateo County	City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County	Thursday April 13 at 6:30 pm	City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) San Mateo County Transit District Offices 1250 San Carlos Avenue 2nd Floor Auditorium San Carlos, CA 94070
Contra Costa County	Contra Costa County Transportation Authority	Wednesday April 19 at 6 pm	Contra Costa Transportation Authority Board Room 2999 Oak Road Walnut Creek, CA 94597
Napa County	Napa Valley Transportation Authority	Wednesday April 19 at 1:30 pm	Napa Valley Transportation Authority Soscol Gateway Transit Center First Floor Board Conference Room 625 Burnell Street Napa, CA 94559
San Francisco	San Francisco County Transportation Authority	Tuesday April 25 at 10 am	San Francisco County Transportation Authority San Francisco City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 250 - Board of Supervisors Chambers San Francisco, CA 94102
Marin County	Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM)	Thursday April 27 at 6 pm	Transportation Authority of Marin Marin County Civic Center Board of Supervisors Chambers, Room 330 3501 Civic Center Drive San Rafael, CA 94903
Santa Clara County	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority	Thursday May 4 at 5:30 pm	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Chambers First Floor 70 West Hedding Street San Jose, CA 95110
Sonoma County	Sonoma County Transportation Authority	Monday May 8 at 2:30 pm	Sonoma County Transportation Authority Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Dept. First Floor Planning Commission Hearing Room 2550 Ventura Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Solano County	Solano Transportation Authority	Wednesday May 10 at 5:30 pm	Solano Transportation Authority Suisun City Hall 701 Civic Center Blvd. Suisun City, CA 94585
Alameda County	Alameda County Transportation Commission	Thursday May 25 at 2 pm	Alameda County Transportation Commission Eighth Floor Commissioner Conference Room 1111 Broadway Oakland, CA 94607

Combined Events Calendar

April

April 13, 6:30 pm - City/County Assn. of Governments (C/CAG); San Mateo County Transit District Offices, 1250 San Carlos Ave., 2nd FL Auditorium, San Carlos, CA 94070 - **CMA**

Presentation Briefings

April 19, 6 pm - Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Bd Rm, 2999 Oak Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94597 -

CMA Presentation Briefings

April 19, 1:30 pm - Napa Valley Transportation Authority, Soscol Gateway Transit Center, 1st FL Board Conference Rm, 625 Burnell Street, Napa, CA 94559 - **CMA Presentation Briefings**

April 25, 10 am - San Francisco County Transportation Authority, San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Rm 250 - Board of Supervisors Chambers, San Francisco, CA - **CMA**

Presentation Briefings

April 27, 6 pm - Transportation Authority of Marin, Marin County Civic Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, Rm 330, 3501 Civic Center Dr, San Rafael, CA - **CMA Presentation Briefings**

May

May 4, 5:30 pm - Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Santa Clara County, Board of Supervisors Chambers, First Fl., 70 West Hedding St., San Jose, CA - **CMA Presentation Briefings**

May 4th - Alameda County: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Fremont City Hall, Council Chambers, 33300 Capitol Ave., Fremont - **Open House**

May 4th - San Mateo County: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Sequoia High School, Multi-Purpose Rm., 1201 Brewster Ave., Redwood City - **Open House**

May 8, 2:30 pm - Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Sonoma County, Permit & Resource Management Dept., 1st Fl Planning Commission Hearing Rm, 2550 Ventura Ave., Santa Rosa, CA **CMA Presentation Briefings**

May 10, 5:30 pm - Solano Transportation Authority, Suisun City Hall, 701 Civic Center Blvd., Suisun City, CA 94585 - **CMA Presentation Briefings**

May 10th - Contra Costa County: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Embassy Suites Hotel, Contra Costa Ballroom, 1345 Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek - **Open House**

Combined Events Calendar

(Continued)

May 15th - Napa County: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Elks Lodge, 2840 Soscol Avenue, Napa–**Open House**

May 17th - San Francisco County: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Bay Area Metro Ctr., Yerba Buena Conf. Rm., 375 Beale St., San Francisco – **Open House**

May 20th - Marin County: Public Workshop & Open House; 8:30am Reg./**Open House, 9-1 pm Presentation Open House**, Mill Valley Community Ctr., 180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley

May 22nd - Santa Clara County: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Marriott Hotel, San Jose Ballroom IV-VI, 301 So. Market St., San Jose – **Open House**

May 25, 2 pm - Alameda County Transportation Commission, 8th FL Commissioner Conf. Rm., 1111 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607 - **CMA Presentation Briefings**

May 12, 2017 Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee (**9:40 am** of immediately following the Legislation Committee, whichever occurs later) at Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, San Francisco, CA – **Public Meeting**

May 15 - Solano County: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street, Fairfield – **Open House**

May 16, 2017 MTC Public Meeting (**6:00 pm**) at Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 150 E. San Fernando Street, Room 225, San Jose, CA – **Public Meeting**

May 18, 2017 MTC Public Meeting (**6:00 pm**) at Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, Hall of History, 734 Marin Street, Vallejo, CA – **Public Meeting**

May 22nd - Santa Clara County: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Marriott Hotel, San Jose Ballroom IV-VI, 301 So. Market St., San Jose – **Open House**

May 22nd - Sonoma County: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Finley Community Ctr., 2060 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa – **Open House**

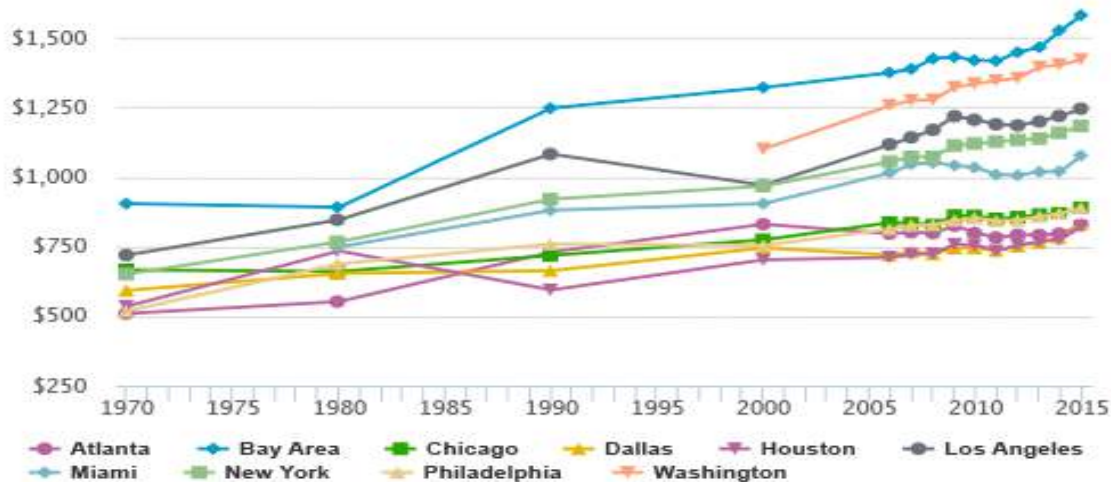
Our Bay Area League Day conversation on Housing continues



Metro Comparison for Rent Payments

The Bay Area continues to have the highest median rent payments of any major metro in the United States, according to the latest data release from Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Vital Signs project. While the Bay Area has experienced booming demand for rental housing,

land use policies have limited the supply of new housing, contributing to higher rents. Our region's median rent payments have also grown faster than any other major metro area except New York over the last 45 years.



<http://www.vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/rent-payments>

Rent Payments

Housing is the biggest item in most household budgets, and is an especially significant expense in high-cost regions like the Bay Area. A number of factors affect rents.

On the demand side, factors include population growth, household formation and income, along with the share of households preferring renting over owning a home.

On the supply side, factors include the development and quality of new rental housing to meet that growth, along with any offerings of existing ownership units for rent. Additionally, policies exist in some communities to directly impact the rent levels, limiting allowed increases for the duration of a tenure.

Inflation-adjusted median rent payments have risen seven percent in the Bay Area in the past two years.

While the Bay Area has traditionally been one of the nation's more expensive regions, rents began their steep ascent after 1980 as the growing technology sector contributed to a booming regional economy. From 1980 to 2015, inflation-adjusted median monthly rent payments in the Bay Area rose 75 percent. The recent Great Recession hardly stalled this surge in rent prices.

Starting in 2012, rents have risen each year to record highs. The extraordinary rate of growth for median rent payments in just the past two years is on par with the increases last seen in the 1980s. No county in the region has been immune to these rising costs for rents, with increases ranging between 56 percent and 100 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars between 1970 & 2015.

Contest Spotlights Sea Level Rise Solutions

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) announced a competition to tap some of the most creative minds in the fields of architecture, design, engineering and urban planning worldwide to develop solutions to the sea level rise threatening shoreline communities and infrastructure in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as other hazards such as seismic threats. Largely funded by a \$4.6 million grant from The Rockefeller Foundation, the "Bay Area: Resilient by Design Challenge" will fund 10 demonstration projects spanning all nine Bay Area counties that address a range of Bay Area vulnerabilities. MTC is a partner in the effort through its role in the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC), which provided leadership in securing the grant and serves on the Executive Committee for the effort. **MORE**

San Francisco to Host Forum On Future of Interstate Highways

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Transportation Research Board (TRB) invite Bay Area residents and visitors to take part in an ongoing Study of the Future Interstate Highway System, and to attend a pair of upcoming listening-and-outreach events in San Francisco at which participants can share recommendations about how best to plan, fund, operate and maintain the 60-year-old, nearly 47,000-mile freeway network in the decades ahead. Thursday, Feb. 23, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Yerba Buena conference room at the Bay Area Metro Center at 375 Beale Street in San Francisco. The second meeting will be held at the same location on Friday, Feb. 24, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. <http://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/san-francisco-host-forum-future-interstate-highways>

Newly Released Bike Share Maps Detail Full System Expansion for the East Bay

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) created a new map shows the planned locations for 66 additional bike share stations in Berkeley, Oakland and Emeryville as part of an expansion of Bay Area Bike Share into the East Bay. The expansion plans brings the total number of bike share stations planned for the East Bay cities of Berkeley, Oakland and Emeryville to nearly 130, and the total number of bikes to be deployed in the East Bay to 1,500. The plans unveiled to expand the bike share network throughout the San Francisco Bay Area beginning next spring. As part of the program's public outreach efforts, Motivate is collecting additional feedback on the [proposed locations online](#).

Tips to Engage and Leverage New League Members

Congratulations to local leagues who have seen an uptick in membership. The San Francisco League has a whopping 35 new members. The Berkeley League is engaging new members by holding Monthly Social events for new members for casual conversations about the League. We're looking for your local League new members stories; how many new members in your local League? What methods are you using to engage your members? Below you'll find the top 3 opportunities to engage new members, written by LWVC President, Helen Hutchinson.

1. **LISTEN.** Ask new and potential members to talk about why they joined the League (or are interested in the League). What issues are they particularly interested in? What skills do they have? What skills would they like to learn?

Tip 1: Small group informal coffees create a "safe space" for members and non-members to more freely share. Public places (like coffee shops) work especially well for these drop-in meetings.

Tip 2: Schedule meetings so people can attend; try different times to attract different people.

1. **RESPOND** quickly to potential volunteer interest. Thank interested individuals and welcome them to your League (whether as a volunteer, a donor or a new member). Call them or meet them for a coffee. Engaging volunteers within the first 30 days is critical to retaining them.

2. **Be ready to suggest specific, concrete volunteer opportunities for new people to get involved soon.**

The best activities are:

- a. Community facing (for example, voter registration drives or advocacy action, NOT internal things like program planning)
- b. Focused on the League's core democracy/voting rights issues: (for example, informally observe one or two city council/school board meetings to gain a sense of community issues; what organizations use public input to advocate; does the board or council reflect the demographics of the community?) Report back.
- c. Tangible & bite-sized (ask for one afternoon or one hour of help.)
- d. Provide training and/or mentoring for any activity

3. **Continuing volunteer opportunities include:**

- a. Voter registration – high school, community events
- b. New citizen or other ongoing voter registration/engagement work
- c. Local or state advocacy campaigns on key League issues, activities such as:
 - i. Attending a state/local lobby day, participate in legislative interviews
 - ii. Sending letters/action alerts to officials about legislation
 - iii. Writing letters to the editor
- d. Preparing for local election activities
- e. Election follow up, such as participating in "next steps" meetings with partner groups, meeting with election officials.

Guidance on Opportunities: A Culture that Welcomes New Engagers

Created March 2017

Individuals – our members and supporters -- are the life-blood of the League of Women Voters! All of us started out as brand new members, looking in from the outside on an unfamiliar and sometimes intimidating organization. With so many new individuals coming to the League now, it seemed like a good time to reflect on how we are welcoming new individuals into the League and to share some best practices.

Borrowing from the Canadian Society of Association Executives website, here are some simple reminders, including some very basic best practices:

1. Greet new members.

This is fairly basic, but many Leagues don't provide any kind of personalized welcome. There are many ways to welcome new members: connecting with a welcome phone call, email or hand-written note, giving a shout-out in your newsletter, or inviting them to participate in a mentorship program and/or a special reception/orientation.

2. Introduce them.

Invite new members to be profiled in the newsletter, introduce them at in-person events, and connect them with another member who could help them with a need they have identified in the welcome call.

3. Educate new members on the value of membership.

Often people join a group for a particular program or service, not realizing how many other opportunities are afforded by membership. A session providing an overview of the League's programs and volunteer opportunities can be invaluable to newcomers - both in engaging them and helping them maximize the value of their membership investment.

4. Engage through diverse volunteer opportunities.

Volunteering is a great way to get to know other members, and it is of great value to the League. Members learn a lot about the League by volunteering, and as understanding grows so does commitment and engagement. The more varied the opportunities – in terms of skill sets, time required and location – the more members will get involved. Does your League have a volunteer opportunities page on their website?

5. Ask newcomers for help.

Some members will actively seek out opportunities to get involved, but there are many others who will help if asked. When speaking to new members, always ask them to volunteer. This is a great opportunity to retool your "elevator speech." Can you talk about some of the League's recent accomplishments and pivot to ask them to help with the League's next goal?

6. Be strategic in including new members in events.

Make sure there are attendees who will keep an eye out for first time attendees and make them feel welcome. It can be very hard for a newcomer to connect with peers or meet specific people in a crowd; having a buddy system or registration list in advance can help. Members are more likely to return if they get what they want the first time. Some people are more comfortable attending an event as a newcomer if they have a structured role at least part of the time, so encourage new members to volunteer as well.

7. Be strategic about welcoming new members.

Ask new members what they want. What were their goals in coming to a League event? Help them achieve these goals by directing them to the correct programs, introducing them to the contacts they need and providing opportunities they seek. Measure your success through conversations, surveys and new member participation rates.

8. Ensure inclusivity.

Newcomers should be able to get involved in all programs and services and be recognized from the start. New members have expertise too! Help them to understand the League jargon and culture. Tips on [ways](#) to engage them are available on www.lwv.org.

9. Make it easy.

Send reminders about meetings and events. Make it easy to volunteer or register with online sign-up sheets. Be flexible!

League Spotlight: LWV of the Fairfax Area, Virginia

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area has experienced a big growth in membership in the past few months. They are making their League welcoming by:

1. Maximizing their newsletter, with information, volunteer opportunities and acknowledgement of new members;
2. Sending hand-written notes to new members and getting them connected with leaders in their part of the county;
3. Hosting new member orientations and training opportunities;
4. Posting volunteer sign-ups online and providing a range of volunteer opportunities; and
5. Sending weekly email communications to all members and having active social media channels.



Source: www.facebook.com/lwvfairfax

****Bulleted list based on [9 Ideas for Welcoming New Members into Your association](#)**

LEADERS FOR DEMOCRACY CONFERENCE CALL

On March 22, 2017, via conference call, we heard from our LWVUS President, Chris Carson and several of her senior leaders.

The one-hour call covered seven topics, which are briefly summarized below.

Watch the recording:

<<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/viewRecording/3046420546506666498/9015679069909164035/tkaye752@gmail.com>>

LWV and the 2016 election During 2016 the League's program activities reached approximately 30 million people. League members registered approximately 120,000 new voters. Threats to Voter Rights The League is actively working to protect voter rights. Specifically the League is working for the retention of the Elections Assistance Commission (EAC). This is the only federal agency that is exclusively dedicated to improving elections. In the proposed Federal budget this agency is slated to be discontinued. Among other areas the EAC is a clearing house for election best practices and establishes standards for voting machines. Redistricting Chris Carson specifically addresses redistricting as an issue that broadly energizes all members because: ü it is essential to voter rights reform. ü it engages Leagues at all levels, and engages new members in exciting ways. LWVUS works in a coordinating capacity with all state Leagues on redistricting. LWVUS Current Legal Initiatives The LWVUS is actively supporting litigation or directly litigating issues that block citizens from being able to vote. These matters include: reducing undue burden on documentary proof of citizenship, preventing unnecessary burdens on voter registration, preventing states from illegally purging voter polls, and advancing a first amendment challenge to Gerrymandering. State Level

Actions Similar to the national level activities the LWVUS is aggressively working at the state level to prevent threats to voter rights. Efforts here have focused on: documentary proof of identification, ease of registration including on-line registration, and fairness in automatic registration. Advocacy Programs LWVUS advocacy efforts include: · Safeguarding the National Voter Registration Act. · Retention of the EAC, mentioned above. Working to prevent a Constitutional convention to create a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA). (Concern here is twofold; LWVUS believes BBA is a bad idea and a constitutional convention opens the entire Constitution to amendment.) · Working to defeat repeal of the ACA. · Working to prevent repeal of the Clean Power Program. · Opposing recent immigration bans as discriminatory based on religion and in violation of due process. 2017 Initiatives Activities for the balance of 2017 will be focused on: ü Registration; a push to register new citizens and high school students. ü Voter Education. ü Mobilization of the infrequent voter.

Submitted by Tracey Edwards
April Voter, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE



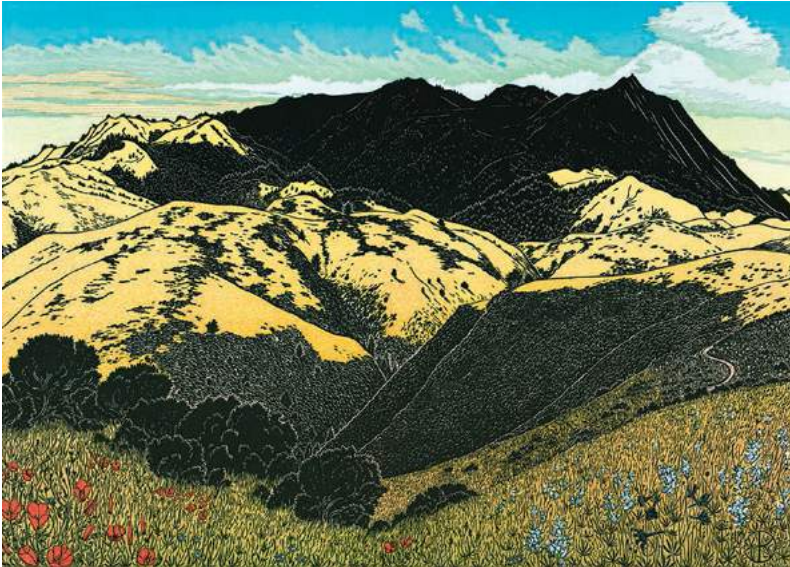
explore
**THE BAY
AREA
MONITOR**



April/May 2017

<http://bayareamonitor.org/read>

THE ART OF SUPPORTING OPEN SPACE



By Aleta George

Artist Tom Killion grew up above the Old Mill School in Mill Valley, where a short walk through the neighborhood delivered him to the trails of Mount Tamalpais. As a kid, teen, and adult, Killion explored them all, and his history and personal relationship with the land infuse his work with spirit and memory. “People tell me that they see the world through my prints,” said Killion.

<http://bayareamonitor.org/the-art-of-supporting-open-space>

CARE FOR LANDSCAPES AND LUNGS: ADDRESSING EQUIPMENT EMISSIONS



By Leslie Stewart

Aaahhh, the refreshing smell of newly-mown grass! Whether it's from the neighboring park or their own front yards, Bay Area residents are again getting that chlorophyll-laden breeze announcing the season of mowing, planting, and weeding. Unfortunately, all too often the breeze is also loaded with gasoline fumes from lawn and garden equipment.

<http://bayareamonitor.org/care-for-landscapes-and-lungs-addressing-equipment-emissions/>

CREOSOTE CLEANUP: THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY'S PILING PROBLEM



By Robin Meadows

Pick just about any spot on the edge of the San Francisco Bay and you'll probably see wood pilings poking out of the water. Driven deep into the Bay floor to support piers and other waterfront structures between the Gold Rush and the 1970s, the pilings are a reminder of our history. Today, birds pose on them picturesquely and, on a sunny day, the contrast of the dark wood against the blue water and sky is beautiful. **<http://bayareamonitor.org/creosote-cleanup-the-san-francisco-bays-piling-problem/>**

STATE SEEKS SAFER STREETS



By Cecily O'Connor <http://bayareamonitor.org/state-seeks-safer-streets/>

Are there areas in your community where you don't feel safe biking, or can't bike at all?

An effort is underway to address these roadblocks and make the Bay Area safer for residents who depend on biking for their transportation needs. These residents can shape the effort by sharing their thoughts about [a new bicycle plan from Caltrans District 4](#), the section of the state's transportation department representing the nine-county region. Additional districts around the state will be moving forward with their own plans as well.

About the *Bay Area Monitor*

Launched in 1975, the *Bay Area Monitor* is published six times a year by the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund, and covers transportation, air quality, water, open space, and land use issues in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The publication is distributed to League members, elected and appointed officials, government employees, libraries, media outlets, nonprofit organizations, business leaders, and engaged residents. Every edition is also posted online at www.bayareamonitor.org.

Subscriptions to the *Monitor* are free, but reader donations are encouraged and help to sustain the publication. Donations are tax-deductible, as the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

The *Monitor* is also supported by the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Delta Diablo, the East Bay Regional Park District, the Marin Municipal Water District, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and the San Mateo County Transit District, the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the Sonoma County Water Agency. The *Monitor* retains editorial autonomy from its supporters.

Contact us at (510) 839-1608 or editor@bayareamonitor.org
Alec MacDonald, Editor • Madeline Kronenberg, LWVBA President

The League of Women Voters Ed Fund AmazonSmile Account



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Donate money automatically every time you shop.

Events Around the Bay



LWV Piedmont
Film Event
4/26/17
and
4/29/17

"An amazing and important film with the potential to change the way we think about the problem of youth homelessness." Alex Kotlowitz, author of *There Are No Children Here*
FREE screenings in both Piedmont and Oakland:

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 Ellen Driscoll Playhouse, 325 Highland Ave, Piedmont
Reception at 6:30 PM, screening 7:00 pm followed by community discussion.
Visit <http://www.lwvpiedmont.org/>

Three smart, ambitious teens in Chicago challenge our stereotypes about homelessness as they fight to stay in school, graduate, and build a future. A powerful, original perspective on what it means to be young, homeless and building a future in America today.

Sunday, April 29, 2017 New Parkway Theater, 474 24th Street, Oakland Screening 3 PM, followed by community discussion

Climate One Event

May 4, 2017 6:30pm | How Cities Can Solve the Climate Challenge | 555 Post St., San Francisco

Local Leaders promoting smart growth & preparing for the impacts of climate disruption will have on public health, roads & other infrastructure.

<http://climateone.org/events/how-cities-can-solve-climate-challenge>

LWV Piedmont

Friday, May 5, 2017 | 11:00 a.m.

40 Highland Ave | Piedmont

"Oakland Promise" The Piedmont League of Women Voters will feature David Silver, Executive Director of The Oakland Promise Silver will speak at 11 a.m., following the members' annual meeting. The catered lunch will begin at noon. www.lwvpiedmont.org website.

LWV Eden Area

Tues. **May 9, 2017**, 5:30-8pm | "I Ran for Office and Won: Five Women Candidates Tell Their Story | AAUW Event - Castro Valley Library: "http://www.lwvea.org/files/women_elected_officials2.pdf

LWVNCSM

May 16, 2017

General Meeting: Right Type, Right Place. Colleen Kredell, Director of Research, Next 10, will discuss the new report, "Right Type, Right Place - Assessing the Environmental and Economic Impacts of Infill Residential Development through 2030." Silicon Valley Community Foundation
1300 South El Camino Real
San Mateo, CA 94402

LWV San Francisco

May 18, 2017 |6:00pm

Member Wine and Cheese
Location will be revealed upon RSVP
Description Join LWVSF for our annual member wine and cheese event. We will host a speaker from Generation Citizen.

Climate One Event

THU, MAY 25 2017 - 12:00PM

WATER WHIPLASH

555 Post Street, San Francisco
After 5-years of severe drought, Californians are now talking about what it means to have too much water. The end of the drought is a blessing, but the state may need \$50 billion to repair dams, roads, and other infrastructure. Join Felicia Marcus from the State Water Resources Control Board & Buzz Thompson from Stanford University.
<http://climateone.org/events/water-whiplash>

LWV Diablo Valley

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 | 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM

"Now is the Time: Healthcare for Everybody documentary showing"
Brentwood Community Center
35 Oak St., Brentwood, CA 94513
<http://www.lwvdv.org>

To add your events to the next LWVBA calendar write to communications@lwvba.org



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NAPA COUNTY**



**PLEASE HELP US SEND TWO DELEGATES
TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CALIFORNIA
STATE CONVENTION IN SACRAMENTO, JUNE 1-4, 2017**

We have the opportunity to send two officers of the League of Women Voters of Napa County to LWVC's Convention this June. The delegates will be able to vote on LWVC policies and will gain knowledge and inspiration to help lead our Napa County League.

Dues are our only source of income to fund everything we do: programs, voter service activities, advocacy on local, state, and national issues, and community outreach. From our annual dues we make member payments to the Bay Area League, State League, and National League. These payments support grassroots efforts at many levels. What's left for us to keep is only \$13 per membership—to pay for all we do.

For two delegates to be able to attend June's convention, we need about \$1,450 to cover registration and lodging. Delegates will be paying for meals and other incidentals. Other nondelegates will be paying their own way.

PLEASE HELP US REACH THIS GOAL!

ONLINE, go to our website, www.lwvnapa.org, and click on **DONATE** to connect with LWVNC's PayPal account. Simply type in your credit card information and the donation amount. No fees will be charged to you and you do not have to have a PayPal account.

BY MAIL, just print and fill out the **Contribution Form** below.

Name _____ Member Nonmember

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ I wish my contribution to remain anonymous

Mail to LWVNC, P.O. Box 10560, Napa, CA 94559.

LWVNC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so your contribution is tax deductible.



**League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area**



For more information on the
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area
write to communications@lwv.org