

LWVBA VOTER June 2005

Joyce Roy, Editor
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – June 2005

Our annual meetings are an opportunity to let our members know what we have been doing and to receive feedback about what has met members' needs and what has not. At the Bay Area Council held in May, the LWV of the Bay Area received valuable participation and feedback about what our constituents, the local Leagues, need from our regional level of League.

- We need to continually inform members what the Bay Area League is and what are our regional positions (We are a pretty invisible level of League to most members).
- We need to keep you up-to-date on issues facing the region, and where the LWVBA stands on these issues. Our twice yearly regional meetings also need to be better publicized.
- The information resources that we provide, the *Bay Area Monitor* (www.bayareamonitor.org) and our website www.lwvba-ca.org, need to be reiterated in local League communications to members.

The above is not a comprehensive list nor all the feedback we heard, but our notes from the Council will be reviewed by the Board at our retreat in early July. In the meantime, please view our website for current information about our positions, *Monitor* publication, action statements and LWVBA contacts.

I would invite you to contact me at anytime at president @lwvba-ca.org. We are your partner and representative at the regional level.

Linda Craig, President
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area
President@lwvba-ca.org

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➤ **BAY AREA LEAGUE COUNCIL GIVES REPORT TO LOCAL LEAGUES**

Reports on Bay Area regional issues monitoring and action were presented at the League of Women Voters Bay Area (LWVBA) Council on May 14 at the Palo Alto Unitarian-Universalist Church. LWVBA is an inter-League organization that works on regional issues on behalf of the 21 Leagues in the nine-County Bay Area.

➤ **President's Report**

LWVBA has established and maintained contacts with regional concerns to ensure that League has a voice in regional decision-making. Organizations with which contact is maintained include the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC); Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG); Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD); Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC); AC Transit; East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD); Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development (BAASD) and the Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC). Also attended were meetings organized by the Commonwealth Club, Bay Area Council and California Center for Regional Leadership.

➤ **Vice-President's Report**

The Inter-League Network (IN) Committee monthly meetings give local Leagues an opportunity to share information, recommend useful actions and promote positions to the LWVBA Board.

Education Fund/ Bay Area Monitor

For many years the Bay Area Monitor Project (BAMP) has conducted a regional information and education program targeted to local decision makers. The bi-monthly MONITOR has become a respected, recognized source on regional issues and developments. Its public agency supporters, who provide funding through annual contracts and grants, value the objectivity and reliability of the bulletin's reporting. This year BAMP was moved under the LWVBA Education Fund, making it eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions from individual League members, interested readers and non-agency groups, as it tries to expand its funding base for its reputable regional program. The MONITOR is online at www.bayareamonitor.org.

Director's Action Reports

In Transportation, LWVBA supported ballot initiatives Regional Measure 2 (March 2004) and AC Transit and BART Funding (Nov. 2004); called for further study on more mixed uses around the Warm Springs BART Extension; Commended MTC's 2030 Plan which has focused on transit-oriented development planning and funding; recommended further study to the High Speed Rail Authority regarding potential routes through the Bay area, with special attention to the Altamont Pass; co-sponsored a forum on Bus Rapid transit with focus on the I-880 Corridor; and addressed Transbay Terminal issues.

Land Use and Regional Planning was the focus of "Bay Area League Day" in January. Other action this year: commented to UC Berkeley on their Long Range development Plan and EIR regarding the need for mitigation implementation standards, to include LBNL, and the need for more information on aesthetics, geology/seismicity, transportation and traffic; endorsed and signed the argument in favor of Measure CC, the EBRPD parcel tax in Zone 1; monitored a proposal of the Koi Nation to build a casino near the Oakland airport; and worked to enlist local Leagues to talk to their planning directors to document land uses near transit stations.

Natural Resources/Water Committee held a "Know Your Bay Area Day" forum on desalination; urged the governor to sign SB 1568 to improve notification and enforcement of BCDC regulations; commended Cal-EPA for change of regulatory agency oversight from Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to the Dept. of Toxic Substances Control for Richmond's Campus Bay Cleanup; supported LWVSF's letter to SFPUC regarding Hetch Hetchy improvements and the need for water reuse, conservation and appropriate fee schedules to encourage conservation and support for lower income users; monitored BCDC agendas; represented LWV at ABAG CALFED Task Force meetings; and also reviewed were Moffett Field site 25 US Navy cleanup and NASA site restoration; the South Bay Salt Pond restoration plan; emerging contaminants in wastewater and in the SF Bay; Sonoma Wetlands Restoration Project; and the Port of Oakland Middle Harbor Enhancement Project.

Air Quality: Monitored BAAQMD efforts to meet ozone standards and new regulations for refinery flares.

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Bio for **Nikki Harris**,
New Education Fund VP for LWVBA

Nikki Harris joined the Los Angeles League of Women Voters in 1976. She has belonged to seven leagues in four states and is serving on her local Oakland League Board as co-Voters Service Director and just completing her term on the CA State Board as Development Director. She previously was Buffalo's Voter Service Director for three years and on the New York League Board as Development Director. Nikki has worked at all levels of League serving on the New Jersey State Board as Director and VP of Voter Service. She is past president of local leagues in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. On the international level, Nikki visited the former Soviet Union three times in the 90s, where she conducted seminars explaining grassroots activism and "making democracy work".

Nikki retired from banking after 35 years and moved to her home in Oakland in February 2004. She is a board member of "A Better Way" a mental health center in Berkeley that works with foster children and families. She continues to be a board member of the Moorestown School of Music in NJ. She is treasurer of the Newcomers Club of Walnut Creek, is in two book clubs and occasionally performs as Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the Bloomers. She is married to Craig Spitzer and has two grown daughters and one granddaughter.

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The Bay Area Monitor

June/July, 2005 issue will include the following:

- "Creating a Bay Area Master Plan for Water"
- "Rethinking CEQA: A New Look at Environmental Impact Reports"
- "Bad Air Day Means Free Ride to Work - BART, Bus or Ferry"
- "Air District Looks Back - and Ahead"
- "New Transit, New Riders: A Policy to Make the Promise Come True"

These articles can be viewed on the Monitor website www.bayareamonitor.org

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The Monitor needs observers for the following agencies:

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
- Golden Gate Bridge District; East Bay
- Regional Parks District (just lost a monitor)
- Caltrain
- WTA (Water Transit Authority)

We will pay \$25 to either the local League or to the observer for any month in which the observer attends at least one meeting and submits a report. Other regional agencies of interest include the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Port. Because these are not directly involved with the Monitor, we would not pay to have the meetings monitored, although the information would be helpful.

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Calendar:

Friday, June 10, 2005, 11:30 – 1:30, **Natural Resources/Water Committee**. EBMUB Bldg, 375 11th Street, Oakland. New meeting Rm: Mezzanine Training Rm. Presentation by Save the Bay Association on the Moffett Field Site 25 clean-up. For more info contact Eileen Whitty: ewhitty@ebmud.com

Wednesday, June 8, 2005, 12:15 – 2 p.m., **IN Committee North**. Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville League office, 1414 University Avenue Suite D: Phone 510-843-8824.

Thursday, July 14, 2005, 12:15 – 2pm, **IN Committee South**. Westminster House, Palo Alto. Please send agenda items to Iris R. Winogrand: programvp@lwvba-ca.org or (510) 482-4439

SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, September 10, 2005 — LWVC Regional Fall Training Session

Saturday, September 24, 2005 — Know Your Bay Area Day: **Protecting/Reforming CEQA**

Friday, January 27, 2006 — Bay Area League Day: **State of the Bay – Restoration and Access**

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Web Sites:

Bay Area Monitor: <http://www.bayareamonitor.org>

LWVC: <http://www.ca.lwv.org>

LWVBA: <http://www.lwvba-ca.org>

LWVUS: <http://www.lwv.org>

Smart Voter: <http://www.smartvoter.org>

Barbara Boxer: <http://boxer.senate.gov/>

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