

ANNUAL MEETING KIT

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area

Annual Business Meeting

Come celebrate another successful year!

Saturday June 21, 2014
10:00 a.m.

Michaels at Shoreline
2960 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View
(past Shoreline Amphitheater, near the golf course)
<http://www.michaelsatshoreline.net/>
(650) 962-1014

10:00 a.m.	Registration
10:20 a.m.	Meeting called to order
11:45 a.m.	Break and Conversation
Noon	LUNCH <i>See reservation instructions on the last page</i>
12:45 p.m.	SPEAKER: Mary Hughes Founder of <i>close the gap</i> CA <i>Recruiting women to elected office</i>

PLEASE BRING THIS KIT WITH YOU

2014 Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting of Local League Members shall be held between May 1 and June 30, the exact date to be determined by the Board. At the Annual Meeting, the Local League Members shall:

- (a) Adopt a local program*
- (b) Elect directors, officers and Local League Members to serve on the Nominating Committee*
- (c) Adopt a budget; and*
- (d) Transact such other business as may properly come before it; ...*

Local Bylaws, Article IX, sec. 2

A quorum for the Annual Meeting of Local League Members ... shall consist of 10% of the Local League members.

Local Bylaws, Article IX, sec. 4

PROPOSED RULES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

1. Accepted parliamentary procedure (Robert's Rules of Order) shall govern the conduct of the meeting.
2. All speakers must be recognized by the Chair and address their remarks to the Chair.
3. During discussion, each speaker will be limited to two minutes.
4. All lengthy motions must be submitted in writing to the Secretary.
5. A majority vote is required to adopt the agenda and Annual Meeting rules. Once adopted, a two-thirds vote is required to change them.
6. A majority vote is required for budget adoption and the election.
7. A bylaw change requires a two-thirds vote.

Useful criteria to consider when considering or recommending a New Study:

1. Is the issue one on which government action is needed?
2. Will political realities permit effective action?
3. Does the issue involve a current need or is it well addressed without this study?
4. Will the issue be important and timely in two years, the time generally needed to complete a study and reach member consensus?
5. Does the issue fall within LWV principles?
6. Does it have member interest and commitment?
7. Would the study attract new members and community interest?

For LUNCH RESERVATIONS, please go to the last page.

League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 21, 2014

Agenda

Parliamentarian: Crownie Billik

Secretary: Carol Kuiper

10:00 am REGISTRATION

10:20 am CALL TO ORDER

Cathy Lazarus

Welcome and introductions

Quorum count

Adoption of Rules & Agenda

Accept 2013 minutes

Announce committee to review 2014 minutes

Treasurer's report

Marilyn Terman

Budget Committee report (vote)

Sue Graham

Program Planning 2014-2015 (vote)

Sue Graham

Affirm existing local positions (vote)

Sue Graham

2013-14 Review

Cathy Lazarus

Recognition of 2013-2014 Board, Directors,
Consultants and Observers

Nominating Committee report (vote)

Julie Lovins

Welcome to the new Board

Cathy Lazarus

Direction from the Membership for 2014-2015

Special awards

Ellen Wheeler

11:45 am BREAK & CONVERSATION

Noon LUNCH

12:45 pm SPEAKER: Mary Hughes

Founder of *close the gap CA*

TOPIC: Recruiting women to elected office

Proposed Budget: FY 2014-15

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LOS ALTOS-MOUNTAIN VIEW AREA

	<u>2012-3</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2013-4</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2013-4</u> <u>Projected</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2014-5</u> <u>Budget</u>
INCOME:				
Dues	\$11,915	\$12,254	\$11,195	\$12,920
Contributions	9,827	9,046	9,016	9,016
Miscellaneous Income	<u>1,354</u>	<u>835</u>	<u>1,116</u>	<u>1,110</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$23,096	\$22,135	\$21,327	\$23,046
RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS:				
Transfer from Leopold Fund	2,000	1,000	1,498	1,100
Prior Year Savings/ Account Balances	<u>1,902</u>	<u>1,441</u>	<u>2,332</u>	-
TOTAL RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$3,902	\$2,441	\$3,831	\$1,100
TOTAL INCOME & RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$26,998	\$24,576	\$25,158	\$24,146
EXPENSES:				
Community/ Voter Services/ Action	1,201	1,350	1,250	1,350
Financial Support for Leagues	11,163	9,645	10,027	10,027
Member Services	2,576	2,115	2,115	2,055
Convention & Workshop Attendance	3,789	5,000	5,000	3,500
Miscellaneous	2,529	1,460	1,650	1,600
Office Expenses and Administration	<u>5,740</u>	<u>5,006</u>	<u>5,116</u>	<u>4,976</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,998	\$24,576	\$25,158	\$23,508
NET INCOME/LOSS PLUS RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$638</u>

It is important to recognize that we are presenting a cash-only budget, which does not reflect volunteer time and effort, the most valuable of League resources. Consequently, in some categories the use of League resources is greatly understated. This is especially true in the category Community/Voter Services/Action, where many talented members contribute highly professional services at no cost to the League.

Account Descriptions:

Income:

Current dues for individual membership are \$65 and household membership is \$95. Honorary Life Members pay no dues and Students pay \$10. The proposed budget includes a dues increase, as described in the Budget Committee report. Contributions include member and non-member League-A-Thon and other cash donations made directly to our League or to our account in the LWVUS Education Fund. Miscellaneous income includes interest income, receipts from the Annual Meeting, and any other income not appropriate to other categories. Reserves Used are monies used from prior year balances in asset accounts such as our checking accounts and the Leopold Fund.

Expenses:

Community/Voter Services/Action is made up of publications, among which are Facts for Voters, Pros & Cons, Voters Guide and all cost of supplies, printing, and mailing involved in their distribution; public meetings for voter education, including room rental, food, flyers and handouts; SmartVoter.org support; public meetings and flyers for advocacy projects; and study committees, including supplies, postage, and transportation.

Financial Support for Leagues is made up of Per Member Payments (PMP) to LWV Bay Area, LWV California, LWVUS, and the LWV Santa Clara County Council assessment.

Member Services is made up of The Voter newsletter (11 issues), including all costs of supplies, printing, and mailing involved in its distribution whether in print or electronically; the Member Directory and all cost of supplies, printing, and mailing involved in its distribution; the Annual Meeting & Kit including all costs of supplies, printing, mailing and any subsidy for food and decorations; and Meetings for League members, including incidentals such as flowers and snacks. It also includes web hosting.

Miscellaneous is made up of Annual Meeting expenses (most of which are covered by luncheon payments from the Miscellaneous Income section); expenses incurred for League-a-thon, including envelopes and postage; and any other minor expenses not covered in another category.

Convention/Workshop Attendance is made up of Convention or Council attendance expenses, including registration, round-trip travel, ground transportation to and from the airport, hotel, and certain meals; and workshop attendance. In both cases the Board gives specific details of covered expenses to the prospective delegate/attendee.

Office Expenses and Administration is made up of Board and off-Board expenses, insurance, office rent, supplies, postage, repairs, telephone, taxes, technological improvements, and office equipment.

Budget Committee Report

Chair: Sue Graham

Members: Dianne Gershuny, Cathy Lazarus, and Marilyn Terman

The Budget Committee met on March 2, 2014 to prepare the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2015. The Board accepted the Budget Committee's recommendations at its May 6, 2014 meeting. Below are some conclusions and comments from the Budget Committee that help explain the proposed budget.

INCOME:

1. Because of a decline in total membership, dues income continues to drop. So even though we continue to work on decreasing expenses, we are proposing a small dues increase in order to present a balanced budget. The proposed dues are consistent with those of other nearby leagues; we were under the norm for students. Dues were last increased three years ago for FY 2011-12.

	Current <u>Dues</u>	Proposed <u>Dues</u>
Individual	\$65	\$75
Household	\$95	\$110
Student	\$10	\$30

2. Total contributions are projected at slightly lower than the prior year in line with experience to date. However, the budget is drafted prior to the close of League-a-thon, so we don't have all the data we would like for projections.
3. We are presenting a balanced operating budget in which operating expenses do not exceed operating income. Only \$1,100 is proposed to be used from the Leopold fund, specifically for voluntary contributions.

EXPENSES:

1. Overall, the proposed expense budget has again decreased. Each expense item was projected at the most realistic amount, expecting that project leaders will use the same cost-cutting procedures that they have in the past of using public facilities to hold events, or finding co-sponsors or donors to share the cost of the activity.
2. Member Services costs have declined significantly since we started sending *The Voter* via email to most members.
3. The Convention and Workshop Attendance allocation is decreased in the proposed budget from this year because there is a state rather than national convention next year, which significantly decreases transportation costs.
4. Office and Administration Expense projections have decreased again because the increased use of email, online bill paying services, removal of the physical office phone, and other technology continues to reduce our use of office supplies, postage, and phone costs. Despite the decrease, we were able to include a small allocation for continued technology improvements.

Program Planning 2014-2015

League of Women Voters of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area

League members met on January 25, 2014 to discuss what issues we want to pursue in 2014-2015. Locally, the issue that rose to the top immediately was housing in our community. We see the lack of affordable housing causing low and moderate income families to be pushed out of Mountain View and Los Altos. Since we already have an active Housing Committee, interested members opted to join forces with the existing committee. If you are interested in working with the League to help find solutions to housing affordability problems in our community, contact Sue Russell.

In addition to deciding our program for the next year, we also discussed what issues we would most want to see our national League focus on for the next two years. We supported their current issues of focus on protecting voters, engaging voters, reforming money in politics and defending the environment. In addition we joined in concurrence with the Leagues of Cuyahoga Area, Cleveland Area, and Shaker Heights, OH to propose a national study to explore state, county or local primary election provisions to determine the kinds of primaries that have the best chance to increase voter participation and provide competitive general elections.

We reviewed and voted to keep all current positions at the local level and at the national level.

Local Los Altos-Mountain View League Positions

Local Government

- Support of General Plans in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Mountain View, which set forth goals and plans for achieving those goals. Each city's plan should reflect that city's needs and values. State guidelines for general plans should be guidelines and not mandates. Background information should be expressed in a form that allows comparison of data on a regional basis. Los Altos Hills' plan should provide for services compatible with the rural nature of the area and should recognize LAH responsibilities to the region.
- Support for revision of general plans on a regularly scheduled basis with enough flexibility to allow early revision of any section that needs changing sooner than scheduled. Action plans should be revised more often than policies or goals. Early citizen input and public review are essential. Planning Commission should make proposals for revision. City Council should initiate unscheduled review if they see a need for it.
- Support of long-range capital improvement programs in Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills based on effective city planning and sound financing.

Education

- Support of programs that develop and maintain quality education in local schools with curriculum that meets the needs of all students based on efficient administration and adequate financing.
- Support of merger of school districts as an option when class offerings are restricted so severely that more choice can only be brought about by merger. Mergers should maintain the community identity feeling and preserve neighborhood schools, particularly for primary grade students.
- Support of unification as a goal of school district reorganization.
- Support for annexation in concept.
- Support for school district reorganization in order to provide continuity (articulation) and to be a mechanism for handling school district integration.

Foothill-De Anza Community College District

- Recognition that standards at state level are necessary for academic and transfer programs.
- The diversity from community to community within the state requires a measure of local control and local implementation to meet the specific needs of the broad spectrum of the student community.
- Support efforts by the Community College Board of Trustees and the local administration to achieve adequate State funding for the local districts.
- We support a locally controlled public community college district that meets the diverse needs of the district's population.
- The objective of this position is to support the following programs:
 1. General Education program
 2. Transfer program
 3. Associate degrees program (A.A. & A.S.)
 4. Employment Training
 5. Counseling

6. Learning Center/Library
 7. Basic Skills and Remedial program
 8. In-service training program
 9. Tutorial services
 10. Life-long learning
- The Community College District should be supported by public funds controlled by the Board of Trustees. Objective of this position is to support public funds that are adequate, equitable, flexible, fair, predictable, and collectible.

Libraries

- Support of funding for local libraries sufficient to maintain essential services, continuing the present level of funding plus an inflation factor.
- Support for supplemental library funding by the cities of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills and by the Santa Clara County General Fund representing unincorporated areas for the Los Altos and Woodland Libraries.
- Support for continuing Sunday hours at Mountain View Public Library and Los Altos Library, realizing it may be necessary to reduce other hours to achieve this.

Housing

- Support for ordinances against age discrimination in housing.
- Support for retention of city ability to refuse conversion of apartments to condominiums when such conversion is not in the best interest of the city.
- Support of the following ways to cope with jobs/housing imbalance and related transportation problems:
 - a. Increased densities where appropriate if a feeling of open space is retained.
 - b. Cluster zoning, which provides open space.
 - c. Retention of non-conforming use dwellings.
 - d. Rezoning commercial to residential or mixed use.
 - e. Improvement of CalTrain passenger service.
 - f. Improvement of present freeways without expansion of system.
 - g. Encouragement of car pooling, company buses, use of bicycles.

Healthcare

- Support for increasing the number of skilled nursing facilities which accept Medicare and Medical in order to make nursing home care more accessible to all.
- Support for continuation of the ombudsman service to patients of skilled nursing facilities.
- Support for services (e.g., hospice, day health, home health) which enables the chronically or terminally ill to be cared for outside of institutions.
- Support for programs which make health education and outreach services (e.g., nutrition, transportation, social services) accessible and affordable to those in need.
- Support for the use of health insurance plans which encourage the most appropriate and cost-effective care.
- Support for programs which seek to educate consumers about health insurance coverage.

El Camino Hospital

- Support efforts to preserve the hospital as presently located and to continue to serve the health care needs of the community.
- Support efforts to attract enough primary care physicians to meet the health care needs of the community.
- In the interest of good public relations, both the El Camino Hospital District Board and the El Camino Hospital Board should communicate with the public regularly, make frequent progress reports, and have periodic meetings open to the public.
- El Camino Hospital District should continue to collect property tax moneys and should make detailed reports to the community on how the taxes are used.
- El Camino Hospital District should not transfer the hospital land to any entity without a vote of the electorate. El Camino Hospital District should not be dissolved without a vote of the electorate.
- The LWV study of El Camino Hospital District and El Camino Hospital Board should remain active to monitor the collection and use of tax dollars and any changes in the organization of the district, in order to reach new consensus as appropriate and take action in a timely manner.

Slate of Officers and Directors 2014-2015

2014-2015 Nominating Committee:

Chair: Julie Lovins

Members: Crownie Billik, Sue Graham, Sue Russell, Margaret Capriles

Board of Directors

Officers

President:	Cathy Lazarus
Vice President, Program:	Sue Graham
Vice President, Action:	Ellen Wheeler
Secretary:	Carol Kuiper
Treasurer:	Marilyn Terman

Directors

Government:	Katie Zoglin
Natural Resources:	<i>open</i>
Social Policy:	Crownie Billik
Communication:	Norma Schroder
Voter Service:	Natalie Elefant
Data Manager:	Andrea Eaton
<i>Voter</i> Editor:	Max Beckman-Harned
Membership:	<i>open</i>
Director-at-Large:	Dorothea Grimes-Farrow, Julie Cates

2015-2016 Nominating Committee: Sue Graham, Sue Russell

Portfolio Reports

Government

Katie Zoglin

Our local League coordinated with the LWV of California to monitor and to provide input on potential legislative reform of the initiative and referendum processes. The discussions began with a broad coalition of groups. Ideas included creating a mechanism for independent review of measures before they made the ballot in case there are significant problems with an initiative. Ultimately, it was difficult to achieve consensus.

Senator Steinberg is sponsoring the Ballot Measure Transparency Act (SB1253), which the League is co-sponsoring. This legislation would amend various parts of the Elections Code. For example, it would require the Secretary of State to create a website with descriptions of ballot measures in easy to understand language, including a statement that identifies the ten donors who have contributed the largest amount of money to campaigns for and against a ballot measure. It would lengthen the time for volunteers to gather signatures and extend time for courts to review challenges to ballot materials. The bill would require the Legislature to hold early hearings to review initiatives before they appear on the ballot. It would also allow proponents of a measure to withdraw it from the ballot at any time before it qualifies for the ballot. It would

make it a crime for someone to pay or to offer money to obtain the withdrawal of an initiative.

In October 2013, the Public Policy Institute of California issued an interesting report on the initiative process. According to its survey, Californians support the initiative system but most (76%) believe it should be improved. 84% support increased public disclosure of funding sources. Over 75% of those surveyed supported the idea that there should be a way for an initiative sponsor and the legislature to try to work out a solution before an initiative is placed on the ballot. The study can be found at http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/atissue/AI_1013MBAI.pdf



Membership

Margaret Brooks, Sherry Barba

As of April 1, 2014, our membership count was 188. We'd like to thank our members for renewing their membership dues promptly and for returning the member information/interest forms with their dues. These forms help us to know you, your interests and priorities, as well as your availability for our League and your preference for e-mail or regular mail communications. We know that not everyone can contribute time to the League but your membership itself helps increase the effectiveness of the League's lobbying efforts.

Sherry Barba has served us diligently for many years, as both Dues Secretary and as Database Manager, but has now handed over her database duties to Andrea. The Dues Secretary role will be filled by board members as needed. We are very grateful for Sherry's long service.

Reminder: On July 1, annual membership renewal begins to cover dues from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. We will send dues reminders via email to those members who have email. For non-email users, we will send regular mail reminders. Look for your dues notice in late June. We hope that all of you continue to support our League with your timely membership renewal.



Natural Resources

Pat Showalter

On March 1, the County League hosted a forum on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) at Martin Luther King Library. Our Los Altos-Mountain View League spearheaded the effort with a resolution to County Council in December. The meeting was scheduled in the middle of the draft BDCP's public review period so that members would still have time to prepare comment letters before the public review period closed. Because the closure date has been extended to June 13th, it is still possible to submit a comment letter. Over 100 people attended the forum to hear varied viewpoints from six presenters. The BDCP is formally a plan under the *Endangered Species Act* and

was developed with co-equal goals of water supply and habitat protection. For more information on the forum, visit our website at www.lwvlamv.org. For more information about the BDCP, try www.MavensNotebook.com, www.baydeltaconservationplan.com or www.watereducationfoundation.org. Pat Showalter and Cathy Lazarus served on the committee to organize the forum.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) has a bond issue on the June ballot to raise funds for 25 projects needed to improve access to the preserves that the district has already purchased. The Santa Clara County Leagues of Women Voters are supporting the measure. Pat Showalter and Sue Graham interviewed our MROSD directors, Yoriko Kishimoto and Curt Riffle, to get some Board questions answered. Curt Riffle will be the May Speaker at *Lunch with the League* to explain the bond measure and answer questions about MROSD.

This year both Mountain View and Los Altos have instituted carryout plastic bag bans and passed ordinances to limit the use of expanded polystyrene food-service ware. Both city councils voted to ban the sale of these products in our cities as well as the sale of un-enclosed expanded polystyrene ice chests. These bans have been very effective at reducing trash, particularly in our waterways.

We continue to monitor federal and state legislation and regulations that affect natural resources. If you are interested in getting involved in the Natural Resources portfolio issues, please contact a member of the board.



Voter Service
Natalie Elefant

Voter Service activities for 2013-2014 started quietly but will end much more busily.

For the June 3rd primary we held a forum at the Mountain View City Hall, Council Chambers for the candidates for Superior Court Judge Office #21 and Office #24. Katie Zoglin, along with many of our members, helped with the forums. Our moderators were Ginny Lear and Eleanor Yick. Lois Rosenblum has been our Smart Voter coordinator again this year.

In February and again in June, members of our League had the privilege of assisting the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters to register many new citizens out of the almost 800 individuals who received their United States citizenship. It was exciting to participate in this special day in the lives of so many people. Individuals born all over the world—India, Vietnam, France, Chile, El Salvador, etc.—are now able to vote for the first time in America. The enthusiasm and joy of the occasion was contagious for all of us.

Being Voter Service Director for a second year has been an exciting and rewarding experience. I look forward to continuing in this role for 2014-2015.

Web Team
Greg Fowler

In February 2014 we moved our voice mail service from an answering machine in the office to Google Voice. This will save us nearly \$50 a month and provides more services such as email notification of new messages. Our new telephone number is (650) 429-8382.

Electronic payments: We continue to work on improving the way we accept dues, donations and event payments online. For now PayPal remains our payment processor, but we are evaluating other options. We just finished making our printed Join/Renew forms and online forms on the website align for the upcoming 2014-15 dues campaign.

Web Hosting: By changing our web hosting service provider, we will realize a 40% savings in hosting cost for the upcoming year.

Online Storage: We have selected Microsoft OneDrive for long-term “cloud” storage and sharing of the League document repository. Migration of files from the office PC is planned for this summer.

Inter League Communications: We have begun actively collaborating with the other county chapters to study each other's methods and practices across print, email, web and social media communications.

Note: In order to spend more time on SmartVoter, I am going off board, but will continue to be a member of the Core Tech Team - Max, Greg, Norma. We try to be understudies for each other's skills and roles. We are seeking volunteers who have tech skills at any level or who want to learn new tech skills.



Education
Ellen Wheeler

This year was a highly successful one for our committee on many levels. Some highlights:

1. We continued our collaboration with education advocates from all five Leagues in Santa Clara County by holding a joint meeting about six times a year to discuss common topics and to gain exposure to education committee members from around our entire county. This helps keep us all from being too insular in our mindsets.
2. Thanks to committed leadership from LWVLAMV Education Committee members and a few others from around our county, we accomplished a fairly rare feat – getting the “not-recommended” item of a study of public higher education approved on the floor of the LWVC convention in San Jose in 2013.
3. Four of our members, plus Eleanor Yick, president of LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley, formed the LWVC higher education subgroup and worked

diligently over seven months to research and develop the study scope that was ultimately approved by the LWVC board for the upcoming higher education study. Those four members were Lucas Ramirez (the maker of the motion on the convention floor, while LWVLAMV delegate Max Beckman-Harned seconded it), Pat Showalter, Abby Longcor, and I.

4. Our joint meeting topics spanned the range of LWVC education issues – from quality early childhood education (also approved at convention) to higher education. Members have commented how much they enjoy having the opportunity to talk over education issues with others who are also passionate and knowledgeable about education.
5. As chairperson of this committee I am constantly on the lookout for interesting education-related articles and forums and send them out to our LWVSCC Education Committee, and receive them from our members.
6. Our committee meets locally for lunch on the fourth Monday of the month in May, June, August, October, January, and March. If you'd like to join us, please contact me.
7. Last but not least, be on the lookout for meetings and homework materials for our LWVC Higher Education Study this fall. We'll need input and insight from us all as we study this topic that is critical for the future of California.



The Voter

voterteam@lwvlamv.org

Interim Production Editor (06/2013 – 10/2013): Norma Schroder

Production Editor (10/2013 – present): Max Beckman-Harned

Content Management: (12/2013 - present): Sue Graham

Content Editor: Stan Turnbull

LWV Los Altos-Mountain View's monthly eight-page newsletter *The Voter* has undergone significant changes in the past year. On the technical end, production has switched from InDesign to Microsoft Word (with Norma Schroder creating a high-fidelity recreation of the previous design in Microsoft Word). On the personnel end, Max Beckman-Harned, new to both the League and to the Board, took the editing reins from Norma, and aided by copious content assembled by Sue Graham and created by many hard-working League members, has worked to provide an informative and detailed newsletter to the League's membership.

Every month, *The Voter* contains in-depth observer's reports, news from local, state, and national levels of the League, mentions of local events sponsored by other community members of interest to League members. *The Voter* team worked closely with the rest of the Technology Team to expand *The Voter* beyond an eight-page black-and-white print newsletter; including links to the LWV Los Altos-Mountain View website and around the web for expanded coverage of topics, extra content, and color photos to our growing email readership while reducing the costs of printing and mailing.

In the upcoming year, *The Voter* team expects to continue providing the high-quality product its membership expects while furthering its experimentation with the digital *The Voter* and strengthening links with the new LWV Los Altos-Mountain View website.



Norma Schroder Communications

Our new website was very helpful in publicizing our Bay Delta Conservation Plan forum on March 1, 2014 as well as showcasing the event afterwards with speaker summaries and photographs. An op-ed penned by Cathy Lazarus was featured in the [San Jose Mercury News](#). Looking forward to the election season, we expect that *The Voter*, new website, new blog and social media and you will help us to get the word out about our candidate and issues forums to members, the local press and the general public. The effectiveness of the local press outlets continues to shrink, as [patch.com](#) no longer has a reporter assigned to our service area and more and more people get their news from diverse online sources. Your word-of-mouth and personal leafleting remain very important.

New Website: In February we migrated our system to Wordpress technology following the lead of the Leagues of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville and San Francisco. The collaborative partnership helps us all. Wordpress allows multiple volunteers to post content easily to our website in a word processor-like interface.

New Blog: The new website includes a blog which can be read by email subscription, with an RSS reader, or by visiting the website. Our blog allows easy and timely publication of new kinds of content that does not fit into our eight-page monthly *The Voter*. If you would like to sign up for our weekly blog use the subscribe button on the website. If you use an RSS reader, type in our URL: <http://www.lwvlamv.org>

New Calendar: The new website includes Google calendaring. Click an event to see the full listing. You may be able to add events with a click to your personal PC calendar. We can include many more community events on the calendar than in the past. Send us your suggestions at calendar@lwvlamv.org

Email Blasts: We continue to use Mailchimp service for our email blasts, such as *The Voter*, Lunch with the League and LWV special events.

Social Media: Our use of Facebook and Twitter activity expanded this year. We expect to add LinkedIn. LIKE us. FOLLOW us. Go to our website www.lwvlamv.org.

Housing
Susan Russell, Donna Yobs

In Mountain View and Los Altos our League is monitoring the Housing Element updates. A city's General Plan must include a housing element in which the local government demonstrates a plan to meet its existing and projected housing needs. In Mountain View, we advocated for Council to negotiate for below-market-rate units ("BMRs") instead of collecting the rental housing impact fees that were adopted in 2012. We requested that staff inform Council of the number of BMRs equivalent to the impact fee so that Council would not negotiate with developers at Council meetings. We encouraged Council to require more BMRs as a community benefit in exchange for allowing developments to proceed ahead of zoning changes. We supported the new process for awarding affordable housing funds, i.e., Council will review proposed affordable housing projects on their individual merits as they are presented to Council.

We researched the issue of tenant relocation fees and advocated for higher fees when tenants are displaced by new development.

In Los Altos we continue to encourage better monitoring of the BMR program in rental developments. We have monitored BMR conditions attached to developments to ensure that the right income level and bedroom mix is required.

The Housing Committee usually meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m., but best to call or email Sue Russell to confirm. We welcome new members.



Juvenile Justice
Barbara Emerich, Melody Grandell

The past year Barbara Emerich provided us monthly updates on the issues facing our County's Juvenile Justice System, as she's done for over 30 years. Additionally, Barbara has been mentoring Melody Grandell, a member of our local League, by acquainting her with the Juvenile Justice System.

At their last meeting, the Council of the Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County appointed Melody as Juvenile Justice chair for the County League.

Melody and Barbara are planning a public information panel to help us understand how the County Juvenile Justice System works and the impact of recent changes on the delivery of services to our children, including the sale of the Childrens' Shelter to Harker School.

Other plans for this coming year include working with the Santa Clara County local Leagues to revisit the Ranches, and to find out what the County is doing regarding the trafficking of teen-aged girls.

Special thanks are due to Barbara Emerich. We are indebted for the years she educated and regularly updated us on important issues. We are very pleased Barbara plans to continue to work with us on Juvenile Justice.

We look forward to this coming year with Barbara and Melody!
Crownie Billik, Social Policy Director



Smart Voter Liaison
Lois Rosenblum

I am pleased to announce that Smart Voter has embarked on an exciting pilot partnership with Voter’s Edge, a joint project in California of **MapLight** and **the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund’s Smart Voter**. LWVC Ed Fund says, “Our new collaboration will use innovative technology to provide comprehensive, nonpartisan information about candidates and ballot measure campaigns all in one place.”

I am continuing as Smart Voter Liaison for the Los Altos-Mountain View area and have a busy 2014 ahead. Currently, I am covering 10 candidates in the June 3rd primary election in Santa Clara County: three superior court judge races, district attorney, county assessor and sheriff. The free webpages that they can create on Smart Voter provide a widely-used source of online voter information. The November 2014 election will have races in the local school boards, city councils and various special districts – so I look forward to covering the Smart Voter activity then.



Observers
Sue Graham

Through regular attendance at public meetings of local governmental agencies, the Observer Corps seeks to keep elected officials aware of the League’s ongoing interest in local government, and to better inform League and local community members about the issues and governmental processes affecting their communities.

This past year we have been ably represented by:

- Julie Lovins and Lucas Ramirez, Mountain View City Council
- Claire Noonan, Los Altos City Council
- Sally Ahnger, Mountain View Los Altos High School District
- Terry Terman, Foothill-DeAnza Community College District
- Dana Bunnett, Santa Clara Board of Supervisors
- Dorothea Grimes-Farrow, El Camino Hospital District Board
- Ellen Wheeler, Bullis Charter School

We still have observer openings for the Los Altos School District, Mountain View Whisman School District and Los Altos Hills Town Council. If you are interested in becoming a League observer, contact Sue Graham. We’ll show you how it is done.

2014-2015 Dues

Starting July 1, 2014, it will be time to renew your membership for 2014-2015. To pay your dues, please go to lwvlamv.org and click on the red "Join" button. There are instructions for paying online with your credit card.

You may also pay by mailing a check to:

League of Women Voters, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, 94022

Be sure to include the member's name, address, telephone number and email address.

The League believes that sensible, responsible civil discourse and action based on substance rather than partisanship is essential for civic improvement. We believe that with members like you, we can make democracy work.

Renew your membership and be part of the solution!



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
LOS ALTOS-MOUNTAIN VIEW AREA
97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022-3740
(650) 429-8382

ANNUAL MEETING KIT

Change Service Requested

Annual Meeting LWV Los Altos-Mountain View Area
Saturday, June 21, 2014

PREPAID RESERVATION REQUIRED FOR LUNCH
Michaels at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View

Go online to reserve and pay:

<http://www.lwvlamv.org/league-news/rsvp-annual-meeting-june-21-get-meeting-kit/>
or

return this portion with your check for \$25.00 per person (tax and tip included) to:
League of Women Voters, 97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022

Luncheon includes iced tea service.
Please mark your entrée of choice:

- Pasta Primavera Salad
- Chinese Chicken Salad
- Cobb Salad

Make checks payable to League of Women Voters. **Respond by June 13.**

Name _____ Phone _____