



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO THE VOTER

January 2010



Letter from President Karen Clopton

The New Year has begun and the San Francisco League is getting ready to celebrate five exceptional women at our Women Who Could Be President Gala reception to be held February 11, 2010. Please be sure to buy your tickets as soon as possible by going to our website: www.SFvotes.org and clicking on the link to buy tickets.

This amazing and diverse group of women is awe-inspiring and each one has demonstrated the leadership qualities necessary for an effective President of the United States. The Gala will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters and we hope that all of our members will attend. Past honoree Cheryl Jennings will again serve as mistress of ceremonies, the City Club will be the venue, and the League's Vice President for Program, Chandra Friese, will chair the event. For further information, please go to our website, www.SFvotes.org or call the office 415-989-8683.

The honorees are:



Kate Kendell is the Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, a national legal organization committed to advancing the civil and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families through litigation, public policy advocacy, and public education. She is a local, state, and national civil rights leader and attorney, who earned her JD from the University of Utah College of Law.



Anne Wilson is the first woman Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of the Bay Area. Under her leadership, the UWBA has transformed into a community-impact organization that brings together resources and people to address

the Bay Area's most pressing challenges. She earned her BS cum laude from Syracuse University and her Masters in Social Work from the University of California at Berkeley.



Lynn Bunim is the Executive Director for External Affairs for AT&T. She is a civic and community leader, serves on several non-profit boards of directors including the Jewish Community Federation and the San Francisco Urban Renewal Advisory Council. She is a proud graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and was a founding trustee of the University Art Museum.



Pamela Joyner is the Managing Partner and Founder of Avid Partners, LLC and has more than 25 years in the investment industry. She is a renowned philanthropist and civic leader and is a Trustee of the School of American Ballet, The McDowell Colony, the California Health Care Foundation, and the Making Waves Foundation. She earned her BA and an honorary masters degree from Dartmouth College and her MBA from Harvard University.



Yolanda Jackson is the Deputy Executive Director and Diversity Director of the Bar Association of San Francisco. She is an accomplished mediator, arbitrator, lecturer, and facilitator and has focused on increasing diversity in the legal profession, locally and statewide. She is a leader in the legal community and serves on the boards of directors of several bar associations throughout the country, including the California Association of Black Lawyers.

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STORY BANK - NANCY ZINN

In 1994, I took early retirement (a special program offered unexpectedly), so I hadn't contemplated what I would do with my time when I retired from the UCSF

library, where I had been Head of Special Collections and University Archivist for almost 30 years. Consequently, I spent the next couple of years adjusting to living on my own time. Ultimately, missing some of the structure that goes with a job, I took a part-time position as a reference archivist with the Bank of America.

The Archives were then at Front and Broadway, near the Embarcadero. Alas, I cannot remember what led me to the League. They still had unit meetings then – in different neighborhoods and one downtown at headquarters.

The latter was not far from the Archives, and met at 6 PM, which was convenient for me to get there after work. That's where I went (in 1999, as I recall) to become acquainted with the activities and philosophy of the League, and meet the San Francisco members and officers. There, fortunately, I met Adele Fasick, and learned that not only did she live not far from me, but that she was a retired librarian (actually former Dean of the Library School at the University of Toronto) as well! So we developed our friendship going to the meetings and then riding home together.

Adele and I got to know Ann Anderson, who was Chairing the Education Study Committee at that time. We shanghaied my husband, Bill (who had had considerable experience with the SF School District), and with one other member, Kay Blalock, met at Ann's home at Lake Merced for several years. Ann also volunteered at the Achenbach Library in the Legion of Honor, and got me to work there too! Alas, solutions to the problems of the School District were elusive, and during our period of study a new Superintendent was brought in.

Consequently, we felt we would have to wait for some time after she arrived and put her own imprint on the district before we could again look at the district. And things changed.... Ann moved up to Oakmont in Petaluma and the other member of the committee became incapacitated, so the group disbanded.

Adele and I also worked together on the Candidate Forums for LWVSF that were held in the Sunset District for a number of years – always a good way to get a look at the candidates and evaluate their responses to pointed questions! At some point, I took on being timekeeper for the tapings of issue forums to be broadcast on our public service channel, Access Ch. 29. Over the years, I filled in various other spots for the League – recorder for the annual meeting, hostess at the Women Who Could be President reception, participant in a workshop offered by the National League on membership, among other things. At some point I was asked to host a membership meeting, which I enjoyed doing, and so, encouraged by Marilyn Campbell, then chair, joined the Membership Committee. I am co-chair today, with Alex Volberding, whose enthusiasm and ideas (continuing Marilyn's energy and with her support!) should be a grand impetus to increasing the number of members and encouraging their participation in League activities.

All of these activities allowed me to meet the officers and members, and get to understand the organization in its various guises – a totally satisfying experience that I recommend for any one. It seems to me that to join an organization and then not participate in its activities eliminates the opportunity to learn and support it – not to mention getting to know a lot of interesting people, rewards which more than justify the effort involved!

Story Bank is a project of LWV which is designed to collect stories from members who are active in the League. LWVSF hopes that these stories will encourage members to be active in their local leagues and their communities.

Citizens' Map California's Future Application Deadline, February 12, 2010

You can participate in a once-in-a-decade opportunity to map California's future!

Apply to be a member of the Citizen's Redistricting Commission or ask someone you know who would be a good candidate to apply. The initial application process ends, February 12, 2010. Recruit your fellow League members and ask members in your community to apply. It is important to recruit a panel that reflects the economic, ethnic and geographical diversity of California. To date, women are lagging far behind men in applications to the commission. Daily tallies are available on line at LWVC.org.

For decades, the state legislature designed the districts from which we elect our representatives to the legislature and congress. The result? A series of gerrymanders that protected parties and incumbents while ignoring community interests. For example, in 2001 the Berryessa area of northeast San Jose, an area with a large concentration of Asian American voters, was divided into four Assembly districts, effectively leaving that community without the opportunity to elect their own representatives. Organizations like *League of Women Voters* are determined that in 2011, the district maps will be drawn to keep communities like Berryessa intact and hold politicians accountable.

In 2008 the League of Women Voters worked tirelessly to pass Proposition 11, **the Voters First Act**, to put a stop to this kind of disregard for the voters and their communities. Now the responsibility for drawing new district maps for the state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization will go to 14 voters chosen to serve on California's first Citizens Redistricting Commission. *Who draws the lines* and *how those lines are drawn* will truly shape the future of our

state. The commission gives this power to real people — political candidates, lobbyists and big political donors can't serve.

The commission will be made up of five Democrats, five Republicans, and four members from neither party, so every view will be heard. You may be one of the right people to do this job — or you may know someone who is. How do you get involved or encourage others to? It's easy to apply; go to www.WeDrawTheLines.ca.gov for details. Applications will be accepted online between December 15, 2009 and February 12, 2010. You'll also find much more information at LWVC.org Now's your chance! Step forward and be a part of historic change in California!

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Did you know that there is a **Consolidated Gubernatorial Primary Election** on June 8, 2010? The following offices are up for election:

Governor
Lt. Governor
U.S. Senator
U.S. Representatives in Congress Dist 8 & 12
Secretary of State
Controller
State Assembly Dist 12 & 13
State Senate District 8
State Treasurer
Attorney General
Insurance Commissioner
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Member, State Board of Equalization, Dist 1

County Central Committee - **LOCAL**
Superior Court - **LOCAL**

Make sure you are registered. You can check your registration by going to: www.sfgov.org/site/elections and check on "Check my voter registration status and my polling place".

The League of Women Voters California Co Chairs Campaign to pass the California Fair Elections ACT

In a press release, January 11, 2010, Californians for Fair Elections announced the **League of Women Voters California** will co-chair along with the California Clean Money Action Fund and the California Nurses Association, the campaign to pass the *California Fair Elections Act* on the June 8, 2010 ballot. The bill would establish a voluntary pilot public financing program for the 2014 and 2018 Secretary of State races.

The California Fair Elections Act would impose strict reporting requirements and prohibitions on campaign spending for participating candidates. Participating candidates would be banned from raising or spending money beyond the limited public financing. Violators would face fines, possible jail time, and prohibitions from running for office in the future.

The League positions on campaign finance reform that include methods of financing political campaigns should:

- Ensure the public's right to know
- Combat corruption and undue influence
- Enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office,
- Allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

"From schools, to job growth, to health care, California has many serious problems to fix," said Janis R. Hirohama, President of the League of Women Voters of California. *"We strongly support the California Fair Elections Act to get politicians out of the fundraising game so that they will focus on our state's priorities."*

For more information please visit <http://www.yesfairelections.org/>.

Sunday, February 21, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
California Fair Elections Act Public Forum
San Francisco Public Library Main Branch, 100 Larkin Street at Grove, Koret Auditorium,
Mobilizing to support a Yes vote for the California Fair Elections Act in the June 2010 election .

LWVSF's Holiday Party at the Community Center at St. James:



The holiday party was well attended, but not too well lit so the photographer, Mary Anderton (aka Program Manager) didn't focus the camera too well. We had lots of fun and food.



Our speaker, Christopher Armentrout, is the Director of Development and Local Government Relations for the San Francisco Unified School District. He spoke to us about the new plans that SFUSD has for the District and what the League could do to help.

**Bay Area League Day:
Big Steps, Little Steps to Addressing Climate
Change, Air Quality, Transportation, Housing,
and Land Use.**

"Smart Growth" has become a buzz phrase for how California can plan for the state's population boom in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way -- but what exactly is Smart Growth, and how is it being implemented? Join the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area on Saturday, January 30, 2010 for an in-depth look at this important issue, with a specific emphasis on the state's new Smart Growth law, Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg). For more information go to www.lwvbayarea.org or call 510-839-1608.

**National League urges Congress to take
action on climate change**

Memo to Congress:

The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to take quick and strong action against global climate change. Based on the best available science, we urge you to support a cap on greenhouse gas emissions for the year 2020 that is at least 20 percent below 1990 levels, without loopholes that will undermine the cap. We also ask that you support a cap for the year 2050 that is 80-100 percent below 1990 emissions.

Global warming is a catastrophic threat to our environment, our health and our economy. The scientific evidence is clear that climate change, caused largely by human emissions of greenhouse gases, is here now, already causing increasingly severe droughts and heat waves in some areas, intensifying floods and hurricanes in others, and triggering more wildfires. Climate change can devastate crops, create drinking water shortages, displace millions of people because of floods and increase the

spread of diseases like malaria.

We believe that the United States, as the world's largest per capita source of greenhouse gas emissions, must set a firm limit, or cap, on these emissions. The cap must decline over time to meet pollution-reduction goals based on the best scientific information. Enforceable interim and long-term goals are needed to compel early and effective action and guard against irreversible damage.

Establishing the declining cap, based on science and without loopholes, is the single most important issue in climate change and energy legislation. While there are many additional significant issues, no other is at the core of the climate change problem. Without a scientifically-based cap on emissions, other public policies cannot hope to succeed in protecting against catastrophic damage to public health, the environment and economies around the world.

An effective control program must avoid loopholes or any weakening mechanisms that undermine or make the cap unattainable, such as unenforceable offsets or "cost containment" and "safety valve" provisions that would allow sources to continue emissions at dangerous levels.

It is our nation's responsibility to take immediate action to curb the environmental and public health damages we are already experiencing from greenhouse gas emissions, as well as those that threaten the future vitality of the Earth. We strongly urge you to support a cap on greenhouse gas emissions that is at least 20 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2020 and 80-100 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050, without loopholes that will undermine the cap.

Bond Watch 2010 #1

The Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee was busy at the end of 2009 with meetings in October and December. But one issue dominated both meetings – the 2008 Recreation and Park Bonds (\$185 million).

In March 2008 the City Services Auditor division (CSA) of the Controller's office released an audit of Rec and Park's preparation for managing the 2008 bonds. The need for this audit stemmed from earlier problems with bond funds. In 2000 the voters gave Rec & Park \$110 million for park maintenance and upgrades. The 80 projects suffered from delays and overruns from the very beginning. In my May Bond-Watch article, I gushed about the process and changes the department has gone through to ensure the problems from the 2000 bond did not plague the 2008 bond. I even prophesized that the 2008 bonds will be run more efficiently and effectively. Well, it looks like I'm being proven wrong.

CSA's March 2008 audit, and the update to the audit reviewed by GOBOC at our October meeting, listed all the same problems from 2000 without much change in 2009. Given the memo, there were a number of things I am worried about:

- The department is not fully staffed and natural personnel changes and new employee training may cause further delays;
- Six out of seven of the 2008 bond projects have revised completion dates from the baseline schedule from 5 to 15 months late) and the project delays will inevitably lead to increased project costs;
- Rec & Park's project management system, IMPACT, which we were told was going to improve the entire process, seems to be causing as many problems as it solves.

The GOBOC talked to both the CSA division and Rec & Park at our October and December meetings. As usual things are more complicated than they seem. Rec & Park, represented most of the time by new General Manager Phil Ginsburg, discussed the department's response to the audit which included some claims we have heard before and a few new ones:

- The public review process was lengthier than we anticipated,
- Any staff openings are not affecting projects,
- Many projects are not delayed or just slightly delayed when compared to the revised schedules previously reviewed by GOBOC
- The construction bid environment is so favorable that costs will come in below estimates regardless of any schedule changes,
- The IMPACT system is getting better and better.

As a group, we were not completely convinced by Rec & Park's claims. For example, they cannot rely on the favorable construction bid environment when the schedules are slipping and the environment is changing quickly. However, I do believe that Phil Ginsburg, who's been on the job only since July of 2009, is taking a more active oversight role of the capital improvements group in the Rec & Park department and I'm hoping that we will see the improvements in all the projects in the near future.

The GOBOC has the authority to stop new bond sales for projects that we feel are not being executed correctly. The committee has never exercised that authority; I don't even believe they have ever discussed it – that is until the December 2009 meeting. Although we did not decide to stop a new bond sale scheduled for early in 2010 (just over 20% of bonds have been issued), we will be watching the projects closely and will take action if needed.

Water . . . Did you know?

You may have noticed a slight increase in your water bill recently. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is embarking on a \$4.6 billion upgrade to San Francisco's aging water supply system through what is called the Water System Improvement Program, or WSIP. As a result, a rate increase in your water bill began this past summer and will continue to ratchet up each year over the next five years.

The City's water system runs all the way from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park to San Francisco, covering over 265 miles of pipe, 11 reservoirs, 5 pump stations, and 2 treatment plants. An annual average of 265 million gallons of water per day is delivered to 2.5 million people in the Bay Area.

Aging infrastructure and seismic reliability are the major drivers behind the Water System Improvement Program. The water system, depending on the area, was built close to or over 100 years ago. Compound that with the fact that the system crosses three major earthquake fault lines: Calaveras, Hayward, and San Andreas. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), there is a 62% chance that at least one earthquake of magnitude 6.7 or greater will strike the San Francisco Bay region within the next 22 years. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission believes that an earthquake of this magnitude "could cause a catastrophic system failure, with no water service to some areas for up to 30 days, if not more."

There are 85 separate projects to implement the Water System Improvement Program, all at various stages of completion. Thirty-five of these projects are within the City and County of San Francisco, while the remaining fifty are projects that span seven counties - Tuolumne, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco. Projects for the Water System Improvement Program will update aging infrastructure to improve the system's reliability. Other projects will provide redundancy in the system; for example, investigating and incorporating alternative water sources such as groundwater and recycled water in case primary resources were ever shut down. All of the larger projects are scheduled to be completed by 2014.

Hold on, there's more . . . Wastewater and Stormwater The City is also embarking on wastewater and stormwater improvements to be identified in the Sewer System Master Plan (currently under development). The City's wastewater and stormwater collection and treatment system is unique in California because it effectively collects, conveys and treats not only all of the dry-weather domestic wastewater from residents, retail, and industry, but also the majority of the stormwater runoff and dry-weather

run-off that flows off streets and rooftops. Once the stormwater and wastewater has been treated to remove all pollutants, it is then discharged into either the Pacific Ocean or San Francisco Bay.

Aging infrastructure is also a primary driver behind the Sewer System Master Plan. The system has been developed over the past 110 years, with continuous deferred investment in rehabilitation and repair of older sewers. Infiltration, leaky pipes, and seismic risk to sewer system integrity are a concern. Additionally, localized flooding caused by subsidence in fill areas and development in low-lying areas is also a problem. In short, serious repair of the infrastructure is needed.

Additionally, sustainability is a major theme of the Master Plan. For example, the City must accommodate planned growth and infill over the next 30 years. The Master Plan will identify how to best manage wastewater and stormwater in these areas in the most sustainable and integrated way. The Master Plan will also focus on recycled water, as the City of San Francisco has identified offsetting potable water with recycled water as a high priority.

A number of important factors are being considered when identifying alternatives for future improvements and programs of the sewer system. These considerations include: climate change impacts; rising sea level and increased rainfall intensity; increasing operations and maintenance costs; and new discharge regulations for protection of San Francisco Bay and the Ocean.

The City is working to do what makes sense first in terms of demand management (water conservation), and other sustainable concepts. For example, alternatives the City is considering in the Master Plan include incorporating small "decentralized" treatment plants to support localized recycled water use and implementing stormwater harvesting and "Low Impact Development" to reduce wet-weather discharges to receiving waters. Low Impact Development is a method of managing stormwater runoff with green, more sustainable methods prior to it entering the sewer system (i.e. above ground). Examples of Low Impact Development techniques include green roofs, bioswales, and urban tree planting.

In summary . . . Our water and wastewater systems are aging and vulnerable. Accordingly, the City is moving forward with the necessary steps to make improvements and upgrades to both the water and the wastewater systems. Additionally, the City is using this opportunity to incorporate green, sustainable concepts into its designs and implementation of its upgrades. Soon, we can look forward to more green landscaping in our communities, increased recycled water use, and more reliable services during times of emergency.

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 23, 9:30 - 12:00 p.m.

Membership Breakfast – Program Planning

LWVSF Annual Program Planning Membership Breakfast. Add your ideas and interests during this annual exercise when San Francisco League members discuss and select the issues and initiatives we believe should be priorities for the National League this year. Call or email the San Francisco League office lwvsf@lwvsf.org to RSVP and obtain the location.

Saturday, January 30, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bay Area League's 2010 forum

Participate in the Bay Area League's 2010 forum, Big Steps, Little Steps to Addressing Climate Change. Go to LWVSF website: www.SFvotes.org for more information and to register.

Thursday, February 11, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Women Who Could Be President Gala

City Club of San Francisco, 155 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94104. Go to LWVSF website www.SFvotes.org for more information and to buy tickets.

Sunday, February 21, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

California Fair Elections Act Public Forum

San Francisco Public Library Main Branch, 100 Larkin Street at Grove, Koret Auditorium, Mobilizing to support a Yes vote for the California Fair Elections Act in the June 2010 election .



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Return service
requested