

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO



# THE VOTER

Spring 2007

## Upcoming Changes at the League

by Jody Sanford, President

It is with a mix of pride and sadness that I announce that the League's wonderful program director, Virginia Grandi, is leaving us after four years of incredible service. Virginia is moving on to become the board liaison for San Francisco Planning and Urban Research (SPUR), a position that will have her working closely with their executive director and their 60+ member board. SPUR is a well-respected public policy think tank that does much work promoting good government. With Virginia's intellect, skills, and savvy, she is the perfect person for the role. Our loss is most certainly their gain.

In 2002, Virginia came to the League from the Boys and Girls Club in southern California, where she had been a program director serving at-risk youth. She has been an energetic, enthusiastic, and tireless asset, supporting the League through the entire election cycle, including the marathon 2004 presidential election year, a recall election, and a special election. Many of you have gotten to know Virginia at membership breakfasts, Candidate Forums, the holiday party, and volunteer training sessions, where she kept countless balls in the air and ensured that we all stayed on track, all while sharing her characteristic warmth, humor, and kindness. She has truly been the "face of the League," offering gracious service to our members, unrelenting support to the board (with many evenings and weekends devoted to the cause), and the benefit of her knowledge and perspective.

I have grown to count on her counsel and support and will miss her sorely, as I know you all will, too. However, since Virginia is staying in the City working for a close partner organization, I am heartened that we will continue to enjoy her presence at events and at political functions around town. Please join me in thanking Virginia for all she has shared with the League!

In coming weeks the board will conduct a search for Virginia's successor. A job announcement will soon be posted on our website: [www.lwvsf.org](http://www.lwvsf.org). We're seeking a candidate who embodies the organization's commitment to community engagement and who has a passion for serving the public and our members. If you have any suggestions for candidates, please email [lwvsf@lwvsf.org](mailto:lwvsf@lwvsf.org), and thank you for your patience as we work through this transition.

### Member Survey

This issue of the VOTER includes a Membership Survey, and we hope you'll take a few moments to let us know your thoughts about how we are doing, as well as any areas where you'd like to get more involved. As you know, the League is a volunteer-driven organization, and your time, talent, and commitment make all our programs possible. Your feedback is invaluable; please return the survey by mail or fax.

I'm excited by our slate of spring programs (see Calendar), and I hope to see you at an upcoming event. On behalf of the entire board, thank you for your support.

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## MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST

### What We Stand For - A Review of League Positions

At the home of Nancy Zinn  
1410 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue @ Judah, San Francisco

**Saturday, February 24, 10 am to noon**

Join us to review and discuss what the League stands for: our positions at the state and local level. Come learn about where the League focuses its time and talent. This is a great meeting for new, prospective, and existing members alike! Also enjoy refreshments and fun networking time.

**RSVP by calling (415) 989-8683 or email [lwvsf@lwvsf.org](mailto:lwvsf@lwvsf.org).**

## Bay Area League Day

Jody Sanford, President LWVSF and Program Director Virginia Grandi represented the San Francisco League at the Bay Area League Day on January 27, 2007. The topic of the day was ***Vision for the Future of the Bay Area:***

### ***Focus on Housing***

John King, Urban Design Columnist, San Francisco Chronicle gave his perspective on development in the Bay Area. The region is so large and diverse there is no common vision, and certainly no regional decision making. Successful future of development will be infill, particularly in the already-urban areas such as San Jose, Oakland and San Francisco, building more density near transit and in inner suburban cities, and thoughtful reuse of older buildings (even changing uses from industrial, to office, to housing, etc). He views the City of Portland as an example of a successful region (except for some recent state-wide land use laws).

The Bay Area "Focusing our Vision" project was explained by Ken Kirkey, Planning Director of the Association of Bay Area Governments, in which a technical advisory commit-

tee and sophisticated mapping techniques are attempting to focus on the best potential areas for future housing growth. Only those communities that *want* to increase density and add housing will receive incentives for participating in target projects. Bettina Ring, BA Open Space Council, explained their project with Greenbelt Alliance to identify key habitat and resource areas that should be protected and remain undeveloped, as well as working on urban park needs. Gwen Regalia talked about how Walnut Creek was able to provide fairly dense housing in the city center, while still having growth and height limits.

The latest round of State-required Housing Element updates are coming again, and Gillian Adams of ABAG explained the criteria for Regional Housing Needs Allocation to assign housing targets, by income categories, to each city and county throughout the region. Duane Bay, San Mateo County, and Paul Peninger, Non-Profit Housing of Northern California mentioned various obstacles to building affordable housing, and also ways to be successful.

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area will keep local Leagues informed as these projects move forward, to help to advocate League positions for regional planning concepts and affordable housing.

By: Linda Craig  
President, LWVBA  
[President@lwwbayarea.org](mailto:President@lwwbayarea.org)  
[lwwbayarea.org](http://lwwbayarea.org)



*Future housing in the Bay Area will consist of more density and be closer to public transportation lines.*

## Year-end Appeal Thank you

The League depends on the generosity of members. to make our events and services

**Lucille Abrahamson**

**Maxine Anderson**

**Mary Ann Aronson**

**Martha Benioff**

**Ann Boren**

**Roberta Borgonovo**

**Helene Briggs**

**Marilyn Campbell**

**Kristin Chu**

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**Ann Lyon Dudley**

**Sari J. Ellovich**

**Jo Falcon**

**Adele Fasick**

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**Anna Rind**

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**Norma Satten**

**Marcia Schneider**

**Jolinda Sim**

**Martha Soeldner**

**Suzanne Stassevitch**

**Heather Sterner**

**Susan Sun**

**Susan Sutherland**

**Maria Ury**

**Joanne K. Vidinsky**

**Jennifer Waggoner**

**Jane Winslow**

**Ashley Wolff**



Thank you to the supporters of the League of Women Voters of San Francisco to ensure our fiscal fitness!

## Call for Nominees to the Board

It's that time of year! The Nominating Committee is seeking a diverse pool of community leaders to join the League of Women Voters of San Francisco board of directors. League board members set policy for the organization and play a key role in leading committees and projects. Whether your interest is in voter education, advocacy, or development, you will know you have made a difference. We ask for a two year commitment which will begin in June 2007.

### Commitment

- Serve on the Board for two-years.
- Sustain the League by recruiting members, soliciting funds, leading projects, and building community relationships.
- Lead a project or committee.
- Share approximately 8-10 hours of your time per month.
- Attend monthly Board meetings and committee meetings as necessary.

### Experience

A commitment to serving our diverse community is the foundation for all our work. League leaders are passionate about education, inclusiveness, and civic engagement. We are seeking leaders who bring experience in fundraising, membership development, PR/communications, and project management. We are also seeking people who can help us build strong partnerships with a diverse array of organizations.

### Benefits

- The chance to make a real difference in the political future of San Francisco.
- A chance to engage with community leaders and elected officials.
- The opportunity to lead highly visible projects.
- Board experience with a venerable and respected organization.

### Interested?

If you'd like to be considered or to recommend a colleague, please contact Marjorie Bailey ([mbailey@sjaccounting.com](mailto:mbailey@sjaccounting.com) or (415) 308-6958) or Gail Morthole ([gailnsf@yahoo.com](mailto:gailnsf@yahoo.com) or (415) 986-0227). We hope to hear from you by Monday, March 5!

## Does the LWVSF know your email address?

Did you know that the League is trying to focus its communications online and via email?

If you are not receiving League emails, please go to [www.lwvsf.org](http://www.lwvsf.org) and join our mailing list today. It helps reduce cost and increase communication about upcoming events. You can also send an email to [lwvsf@lwvsf.org](mailto:lwvsf@lwvsf.org) and asked to be added to the list.

Please make sure to let the League know your email address. We maintain a strict privacy policy and will not share your email with any third party.

Thank you.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The League is working hard with our partners to assemble a slate of informative and inspirational events for 2007.

We hope to see you there, and please bring a friend! Email your ideas for future events and activities to [lwwsf@lwwsf.org](mailto:lwwsf@lwwsf.org).

## **FEBRUARY**

### **LWVSF Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 20, 6 to 8 pm**

582 Market Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco

RSVP: (415) 989-8683 or [lwwsf@lwwsf.org](mailto:lwwsf@lwwsf.org)

### **Membership Breakfast**

**What We Stand For -**

**A Review of League Positions**

**Saturday, February 24, 10 am to noon**

At the home of member Nancy Zinn

1410 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue @ Judah

Join us to review and discuss what the League stands for: our positions at the state and local levels. Learn about where the League focuses its time and talent. This is a great meeting for new, prospective, and existing members alike! Also enjoy refreshments and fun networking time.

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## **MARCH**

### **Women's History Month Event**

**with the Mechanics' Institute**

**Testimonios: Early California**

**through the Eyes of Women, 1815-1848**

**Translated with commentary by Rose Marie Beebe & Robert M. Senkewicz**

**Tuesday, March 13**

**5:30 pm reception; 6 pm program**

The voices of women from pre-Gold Rush California are finally heard through the stories they tell of their family life, their passions, and the part they played in a drastically changing California, a land torn between the parentage of Spain and Mexico and its new statehood. Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post Street, San Francisco; RSVP (415) 393-0100 or [rsvp@milibrary.org](mailto:rsvp@milibrary.org).

### **LWVSF Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 20, 6 to 8 pm**

582 Market Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco

RSVP: (415) 989-8683 or [lwwsf@lwwsf.org](mailto:lwwsf@lwwsf.org)

### **Women's History Month Event with the Mechanics' Institute**

**Fighting for the Vote,**

**with a showing of the film *Iron Jawed Angels***

**Wednesday, March 28**

**5:30 pm reception; 6 pm program & film**

Bold and defiant women battled for the right to vote and changed America's history. A brief talk by the League of Women Voters will be followed by the film starring Angelica Huston and Hilary Swank. Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post Street, San Francisco; RSVP (415) 393-0100 or [rsvp@milibrary.org](mailto:rsvp@milibrary.org).

## **APRIL/MAY**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 17, 6 to 8 pm**

582 Market Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco

RSVP: (415) 989-8683 or [lwwsf@lwwsf.org](mailto:lwwsf@lwwsf.org)

### **LWV Bay Area Convention**

**Saturday, May 5**

Details at <http://www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org/calendar.html>

### **LWVSF Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 15, 6 to 8 pm**

582 Market Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco

RSVP: (415) 989-8683 or [lwwsf@lwwsf.org](mailto:lwwsf@lwwsf.org)

### **LWV California Statewide Convention**

Bakersfield, CA

Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20

Details at [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org), or by calling (916) 442-7215.

## **JUNE**

### **2007 League of Women Voters Council**

**June 8-11 in Washington, D.C.**

Details at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

### **LWVSF Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, June 16, 10 am to Noon**

Location TBD

For more information, please call the League office at (415) 989-VOTE or email [lwwsf@lwwsf.org](mailto:lwwsf@lwwsf.org). Thank you.



## Did You Know?

### Happy Birthday!

The League of Women Voters celebrates its 87th birthday on February 14. For nearly nine decades, League members have strived to make democracy work for its citizens. Our members work toward that goal by reaching out to first-time voters, protecting our natural resources, improving our election systems and holding public events.

### National Action!

At January's board meeting, the LWVUS voted unanimously to adopt the following 2007 Advocacy priorities: Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, and Health-care Reform. In addition, the Board reaffirmed the League's commitment to maximizing voter education and participation in the months leading up to the 2007 and 2008 election seasons.

### LWVUS Welcomes Two New Local Leagues

At its recent Board meeting, the LWVUS recognized two new local Leagues: the LWV of Mason County (WA) and the LWV of Dawson and Pickens Counties (GA). Reach

### Directory of Regional Agencies

Bay Area Decision Makers, the LWV Bay Area's Directory of Regional & Subregional Agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area has been updated and now available at [www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org) or [www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org). It contains agency profiles, key phone numbers, and links to agency websites. Since the links will assure up-to-the-moment information about agency board members, etc., LWV Bay Area will no longer be preparing a printed hard-copy version.

### Climate Protection Activities Update

The LWV Bay Area will be working with regional and national groups on the effort to reduce global warming. LWVUS has issued a formal statement in this regard, and the LWV Bay Area is partnering with the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club on the "Cool Cities" effort on the SF peninsula and lower Alameda County to encourage cities to adopt this program. At the regional level, the LWV Bay Area is following the joint effort of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District), the Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to develop a regional strategy to address this issue.

## The League Needs You!

The important work of the League of Women Voters of San Francisco is carried out by its volunteer committees. Committees are made up League members just like you who share their time and talent to make the League's work possible. Committees include:

- Development and Fundraising – help us gain community support!
- Membership – help us recruit new members!
- Communications – help us spread the word!
- Advocacy – help with the Elections Integrity and Transparency Project!

Much more!

Details are available at [www.lwvsf.org](http://www.lwvsf.org) (click on Volunteer). If you'd like to share your time, please email [lwvsf@lwvsf.org](mailto:lwvsf@lwvsf.org), or call (415) 989-8683.



Volunteers Nancy Zinn & Britney Ashlock volunteer as time keepers at the Pro/Con Discussions at Access SF, Cable Channel 29.



Hector Javier Preciado volunteers as a moderator for the Pro/Con Discussions on local ballot issues.



From left– Past LWV-US President Kay Maxwell, LWV-CA President Jackie Jacobburger, LWV-Bay Area President Linda Craig and LWV-SF President Jody Sanford at the Leadership Council in Sacramento, 2006.



Winnie Yu registers voters and distributes League literature at a local community faire.

Calendar of events

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY REMINDER



Inside this Voter Newsletter you will find the League's Member Survey. Please take a moment to fill out the survey and return it to the League with the return envelope. Your input will help the League better know the interests of the membership and areas in which you could potentially get involved. It only takes a few minutes of your time, but means a great deal to the League. Thanks in advance for your participation!



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SAN FRANCISCO**  
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**VOTER NEWSLETTER**