

The Palo Alto VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto October 2011

Election Day is November 8!!!



Be Informed on the two City Ballot Measures!

LWVPA presents a Debate on

Measure D: Whether to amend the City Charter to eliminate binding arbitration for public safety employee disputes.

Measure E: Whether to un-dedicate 10 acres of Byxbee Park land for a composting facility.

Tuesday, October 11, 7-9:30 pm

City Hall Chambers Palo Alto City Hall 250 Hamilton Ave

Co sponsored by Palo Alto Weekly, Palo Alto Online, Midpeninsula Community Media Center, Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, Palo Alto branch of AAUW and Avenidas Senior Center (partial list)

LWV Palo Alto League Day

Join us for discussion and consensus on a new LWVUS position on the

Federal Role in Public Education

Saturday, October 15 - 9 am - 2 pm

Moldaw Residences, 899 E. Charleston, Palo Alto Free valet parking \$10.00 for lunch and refreshments Please RSVP (650) 327-9148 by October 12

Inside this issue:

Message from the Education **Committee** Chair page 2

Board Meeting Summary page 3

Summer Social Report page 3

First Amendment Forum, Nov 5 page 3

Federal Role in **Public Education** Study Consensus Questions pages 4-5

Annual Financial Report to Members page 6

Action Report

page 6

Membership and **Announcements**

page 7

The League is a broadly based, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and involved participation in government through voters service, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Message from our Education Study Committee Chair



Our President, Mary Alice Thornton, has given me an opportunity to write about the Federal Role in Public Education Study in her column this month. Have you wondered, as some others have, "Why do we need a LWVUS Position? Isn't public education primarily a local issue?"

Yes, it is, but, our federal government has been involved in public education for a long time—back to the founding of our republic. More recently, as part of the war on poverty, the National Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NESEA) was enacted to provide federal funding for disadvantaged children. During the last reauthorization in 2002, the law was changed to require testing to measure annual yearly progress (AYP) toward proficiency to be achieved by 2014. This is known commonly as No Child Left Behind or NCLB.

Without a position on the federal role in public education, the League has been left out of all the talk that has been raging across the country on the direction we are taking in education and the reauthorization of this legislation. A national position will allow the League to join coalitions and make our voices heard at the federal level.

Come to Palo Alto League Day on Saturday, October 15, and participate in a discussion about what should be the federal role in public education.

Doris Petersen

Remembering Bernice Loeb... devoted and active LWVPA member

Bernice Loeb passed away in August. Some of our members shared their memories of Bernice:

Bernice was a lovely person of many talents. For many years, she ran the classroom for emotionally and physically challenged students at Gunn High School, maintaining relationships with many of the students well into their adulthood. Additionally, she was a talented writer of children's books and had published a major textbook guide on work opportunities for high school students. She also enjoyed playing tennis.

Bernice loved being part of the League, attending League meetings frequently. She was involved in various Voter Services activities, including being a Voter Service chair where she very competently organized and conducted registration on the high school campuses. She presented pros and cons and helped with LAT calls. She was a pleasure to work with.

We will miss her.

Submitted by Bonnie Packer with help from Crownie Billik and Veronica Tincher

LWV of Palo Alto: Officers, Directors, Off-Board Roster (650) 327-9148, www.lwvpaloalto.org/

OFFICERS

Mary Alice Thornton

President

president@lwvpaloalto.org

Bonnie Packer

1st Vice Pres., VOTER Editor

lwvpaoffice@gmail.com

Phyllis Cassel 2nd Vice Pres., Action

Gretchen Hillard Secretary

Doris Petersen *Treasurer*



DIRECTORS

Veronica Tincher
Voter Service Coord., New
Voices and Smart Voter Liaison

Trina Lovercheck

Candidates Forums

Karen Sundback

Membership,

Water/Natural Resources

Membership@lwvpaloalto.org

Carol Bechtold Program Planning

Betty Gerard Publicity

Liza Taft

Voter Registration,

VOTER Distribution

OFF-BOARD ROSTER

Nancy Olson *Action Tree*

TBD

Budget Committee

Chair

Alice Smith League-a-thon

Diane Rolfe
Community Outreach

Nan Prince Education

Geri Stewart Health Care Sally Probst and Jeff Rensch Housing

Luise Maier *Hospitality*

Mitzi Henderson VOTER Mailing

Karen Douglas *Webmaster*

Nominating Committee
Mary Jo Levy
Ellen Forbes
Lanie Wheeler

Mayor Espinosa at the Summer Social!

Mayor Sid Espinosa wowed over 60 LWVPA members and friends at the Summer Social on August 16 with his



incredible talk on the history of women's right to vote in California and the rest of the nation, as we celebrated 100 years of the women's vote in our state.

He addressed three revolutions: the revolutionary work that got women the right to vote in the U.S., the technological revolution that has transformed our world and the revolution of social networking which allows people to mobilize through technology. Sid left us with a question: what will each of us do to ensure that we move forward in the next 100 years?

Sid's remarks were meticulously researched and annotated with stunning photos and cartoons from the suffrage movement and the spring uprisings in the Middle East.

Veronica Weber of Palo Alto Online videotaped his talk and posted excerpts of it with a lead-in interview with Phyllis Cassel and Veronica Tincher on http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show_story.php? id=22216

Submitted by Bonnie Packer



For helping make the Summer Social such a success:

Carol Bechtold for arrangements with the Garden Court Hotel and Hospitality Table; Liza Taft, for helping at the Hospitality Table; Luise Maier for ordering the cake and delivering it from Whole Foods; Phyllis Cassel and Veronica Tincher for being interviewed for the Palo Alto Online video; and Betty Gerard for all publicity. And a special thanks to the Garden Court Hotel!

Coming in the November VOTER!

We are planning an article about the U.S, Supreme Court's *Citizen's United* decision regarding campaign contributions and the California Disclose Act, AB 1148, which is supported by the LWVC.

September 2011 Board Meeting Summary

At its September Meeting, your board took the following actions:

- Accepted the Treasurer's Report which noted that all per-member payments had been paid for the year.
- Approved funding for a new computer, software and external hard drive.
- Approved a letter recommending that the City Council include a substantial amount for affordable housing in the budget from funds the City will receive from the Stanford Hospital development.
- Agreed to be a co-sponsor (and be a \$50 contibutor) of an Avenidas panel on Sat., Nov.5, on the First Amendment, the Disclose Act and the *Citizens United* decision.

The board also learned that:

- Three Task Forces set up to meet the board's three goals for the year will begin to meet in November.
- Final arrangements are in place for the Sept. 20 Kickoff Meeting featuring Linda Darling-Hammond.
- League Day, Sat., Oct.15, at which our League will develop consensus on the education study questions, will take place at Moldaw Residences.
- Debates on local ballot Measures D and E will take place Tues., Oct. 11, at the City Council Chambers.
 Pros and Cons on the two measures will be available in the Voters Guide to be mailed in late September.
- The City Council sent a letter acknowledging LWVPA's concern about public access to meetings in the Conference Room and stated it was planning to make certain improvements to that room to make it more comfortable for public meetings.

Submitted by Gretchen Hillard, Secretary



Save the Date!

Avenidas is sponsoring a forum on
The First Amendment, 'Citizens
United' decision and its impact on
the electoral process

Saturday, November 5 Refreshments at 9:30 am Forum from 10 am-12 pm

450 Bryant, Palo Alto Co-sponsored by LWVPA and others

The Federal Role in Public Education Consensus Questions for the Palo Alto League Day on October 15

The articles for this study were printed in the June/July, August and September issues of the *VOTER* and are on our website at http://lwvpaloalto.org/Studv.html

Submitted by Doris Petersen, Chair, Study Committee for the Federal Role in Public Education

General Questions

1) The current role of the federal government in public education is

Much too small too small about right too large much too large

- 2) What should be the role of the federal government in public education? (Rank)
 - a) To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
 - b) To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
 - c) To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.
 - d) To monitor state efforts for funding
 - e) To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.
- 3) A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.

 Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree

Common Core Standards

- 4) Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? (Choose one)
 - a) Special grant programs such as Race to the Top
 - b) All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding.
 - c) All programs receiving federal funding from any source
 - d) All of the above
 - e) None of the above
- 5) Should there be a national assessment aligned with the common cores standards?

es No

If Yes, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (choose one)

- a) Voluntary
- b) Mandated
- c) Mandated, if fully funded
- If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)
 - a) Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
 - b) Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the Stanford Achievement Test or Iowa Test of Basic Skills.
 - c) Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically
- 6) National standards should lead to: (choose one)
 - a) A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
 - b) A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
 - c) A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
 - d) No national curriculum.
- 7) What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? (Rank order)
 - a) Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
 - b) Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
 - c) Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
 - d) Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
 - e) Provide diagnostic information on each child.

- 8) Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? (choose one)
 - a) Data should be "norm referenced" (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
 - b) Data should be "criterion referenced" and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
 - c) Data should be used to determine "cut" scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.
- 9) Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to (Choose one):
 - a) Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
 - b) Reward schools that achieve high scores
 - c) Rank teachers based on student test score data
 - d) Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
 - e) Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

Funding and Equity

- 10) In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: (choose one)
 - a) Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
 - b) A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
 - c) Competitive grants only
 - d) No federal funding
- 11) If the federal government's role is the concern of the "common good" then: (choose one)
 - a) Mandates only should be sanctioned.
 - b) Mandates and funding should both be provided.
 - c) Funding should be provided through grants only.
 - d) A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
 - e) No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.
- 12) Equity in public education means equitable access to: (Rank order)
 - a) High quality teaching/learning
 - b) Adequate and current learning materials
 - c) Clean and well maintained physical facilities
 - d) Food and health care
 - e) Safe and secure neighborhoods
 - f) Secure housing



13) Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered "categorical" rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.

Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree

- 14) The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children? Strongly agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly disagree
- 15) Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g.Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.

Strongly Agree Agree No consensus Disagree Strongly Disagree

This funding should be extended to:

All children only those with special needs special needs first

Below is the audited Annual Financial Report to Members for the year ending June 30, 2011. Pat Saffir audited our accounts and found that they are correct and in good order.

Submitted by Doris Petersen, Treasurer

League of Women Voters of Palo Alto

Annual Report to Members Fiscal Year 2011

Statement of Financial Condition

Assets		6/30/11	6/30/10	
Checking	\$	18,905	\$	1,683
Savings		22,409		22,261
Jane Goldstein Bequest		966		966
Scholarship Fund				143
Samuel Taylor Fund		1,817		1,817
Postage Accounts		337		441
Total	\$	44,434	\$	27,311
Education Fund	\$	6,691	\$	20,591
Total Assets	\$	51,125	\$	47,902
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Total Liabilities	\$	-	\$	-
Total Net Assets		51,125		47,902
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	51,125	\$	47,902
		•		

Statement of Activities	Actual		Dudmat	Variance: Fav/ (Unfav)		
(7/1/10 - 6/30/11) Income		Actual		Budget	rav	// (Untav)
Dues	\$	16.321	\$	16.100	\$	221
Contributions from Members	Ψ	6.671	Ψ	5.000	Ψ	1.671
Contributions from Others		4.602		3,500		1,102
Meeting Fees		1.900		1,400		500
Reimbursements		1,500		1,400		-
Other		2.654		2,500		154
From Education Fund		24.702		12,100		12,602
Total Income	\$	56,850	\$	40,600	\$	16,250
Expense						
Administration	\$	12,610	\$	13,712	\$	1,102
PMP		12,451		12,579		128
Service to Members		6,471		7,600		1,129
Service to Community		6,450		4,325		(2,125)
Action		570		1,000		430
Program & Study				200		200
Fund Raising		991		1,200		209
Other		-		-		
Total Expense	\$	39,543	\$	40,616	\$	1,073
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$	17,307	\$	(16)	\$	15,177
		,		(10)	·	,
Education Fund Income						
Contributions from Members	\$	4,506	\$	4,500	\$	6
Contributions from Non-Members & Other Sources		6,596		5,000		1,596
Total Income	\$	11,102	\$	9,500	\$	1,602

LWV members and friends are invited by the Peninsula Chapter of the **World Affairs Council** to a free lecture on

The United States and Cuba - Lost Opportunities in Changing Relations?

Alex Saragoza

Associate Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies, UC Berkeley

Wednesday, October 12

Refreshments: 7:00 pm; Program: 7:30 - 9:00 pm The Los Altos Public Library

13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos

For more information, call Carol Stevens (650) 494-0757



From our Action Chair

LWVPA

The Board approved sending a letter to the Palo Alto City Council as proposed by the Housing Committee. Stanford has designated \$23.3 million to be expended by the City for affordable housing and/or infrastructure as part of the Stanford Hospital expansion project. Given the impact of the Hospital's expansion on the local jobs-housing imbalance there is a need to provide some housing for the new workforce this will create. including those workers whose income will be below the County median. The purpose of this letter is to remind the City Council members of their obligation to use a sizable amount of the funds for affordable housing.

Submitted by Trina Lovercheck

LWV California

As of early September, the LWVC was following 46 bills and supporting 3 more that were on the Governor's desk. The death penalty is just one of those. Please check the LWVC web site at www.lwvc.org and click on Act Now! then click on Bill Status for more details.

SB 490 Death Penalty,

Support. This bill would abolish the death penalty, and require instead, imprisonment in state prison for life without possibility for parole. The legislation requires voter approval in November 2012 election. Defendants or inmates currently sentenced with the death penalty would automatically have their sentences converted to life without parole.

Submitted by Phyllis Cassel

Welcome New Members!

Mark and Stephanie Agnew Joan Holtzman Elizabeth Russell

We are delighted that you have joined the League!

A special tribute:

Mark and Stephanie Agnew recently joined our League. On the membership form, in the comments section, Mark wrote the following and kindly gave his permission to print this in the *VOTER*.

"My mother passed away recently. She was a lifelong member of the League in Connecticut, the Boston area, San Francisco, and finally, Bellingham, WA. Upon her death, her only request in terms of remembering was that her friends and family support the League of Women Voters. It had never occurred to me that the League openly encouraged membership from both sexes. So I thought, what better way to honor my mother than to join the organization that she loved so dearly!"



Thanks to Mitzi Henderson for helping to organize the mailing party for the September *VOTER* and to Georgina Bailie, Geri Stewart, Isabel Arabian, Susan Hartzell and Ruth Consul for

helping to assemble that issue. Thanks to **Lisa Taft** for distributing the *VOTER* to libraries, etc. And a very special thanks to **Ruth Consul** for bringing the *VOTERs* to the post office!

Also thanks to **Sally Probst**, **Betty Gerard and Trina Lovercheck** for their careful proofreading of this issue of the *VOTER*.

Submitted by Bonnie Packer, VOTER editor

Coming soon to your mailbox! Your Voters Guide to the City Ballot Measures D and E for the November 8 special election!



LWVPA Book Group

Friday, November 18 10 am-noon Del Silverman's home

Monsoon: The Indian Ocean and the Future of American Power, by Robert D. Kaplan



Don't forget to send in your Membership Renewal and Interest Survey today! Thank You!

Want to see the November *VOTER* before you receive it in the mail? You can take a **sneak peek** of the *VOTER* online **in color** http://lwvpaloalto.org/VOTER.html (click on "current issue") after October 18.



It's easy to join the LWVPA —Do it now! You will be glad you did.

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels:

National, State, Bay Area and Palo Alto.

Men are encouraged to join. Dues grants are available.

For more information, call the League office (650) 327-9148

Name			
Address			
City		Zip	
Phone (day)	(evening)	email	

Annual membership: \$70. Additional membership, same address: \$35. Student membership: \$35. Mail check with this form to LWVPA, 953 Industrial Ave., Suite 113, Palo Alto, CA 94303

League of Women Voters of Palo Alto 953 Industrial Avenue, Suite 113 Palo Alto, CA 94303 (650) 327-9148

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Palo Alto, CA Permit No. 72

Address Services Requested

Dated Material Please Expedite

How to contact your elected officials:

UNITED STATES

President Obama (202) 456-1414 http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/ **Senator Feinstein** (415) 393-0707 http://feinstein.senate.gov - click "email me" **Senator Boxer** (415) 403-0100 http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/email/policy.cfm (650) 323-2984 Rep. Anna Eshoo

http://eshoo.house.gov/

CALIFORNIA

Governor Jerry Brown (916) 445-2841

http://gov.ca.gov/interact

Senator Joe Simitian (650) 688-6384 http://www.senatorsimitian.com/main/contact Assemblyman Rich Gordon (650) 691-2121 http://asmdc.org/members/a21/

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Supervisor Liz Kniss (650) 965-8737 liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org

LWVC GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

Locate your elected officials with your street address http://www.guidetogovernment.org/

CALENDAR

Tue Oct 4, 7 - 9:30 pm **LWVPA Board Meeting**

Doris Petersen

Mon Oct 10, noon **VOTER** Deadline

Tue Oct 11, 2 pm **Housing Committee**

Sally Probst

Tue Oct 11, 7 - 9:30 pm **Measures D & E Debate** Palo Alto City Hall

Sat Oct 15, 9 - 2 pm **Education Study** Moldaw Residences

Fri Oct 21, 9 - 10 am **VOTER** Mailing Party **Channing House**

Tue Nov 1, 7 - 9:30 pm **LWVPA Board Meeting** Betty Gerard

Sat Nov 5, 9:30 - 12 noon **First Amendment Forum**

Avenidas

Mon Nov 7, noon **VOTER** Deadline

Tue Nov 8 **ELECTION DAY**

Fri Nov 18, 9 - 10 am **VOTER** Mailing Party **Channing House**

Fri Nov 18, 10 am - 12 pm **Book Group**

Del Silverman

Tue Dec 6, 7 - 9:30 pm **LWVPA Board Meeting**

Phyllis Cassel

Sat Dec 10 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Winter Luncheon Garden Court