



Vol. XXVI No. II

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.**

and

**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)

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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

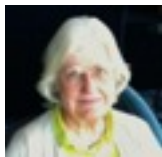
Free valet parking

\$10.00 for lunch and refreshments

Please RSVP (650) 327-9148 by October 12

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/

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Mitzi Henderson
VOTER Mailing

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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

Thanks

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 contributor) 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

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
(7/1/10 - 6/30/11)

Income	Actual	Budget	Variance: Fav/ (Unfav)
Dues	\$ 16,321	\$ 16,100	\$ 221
Contributions from Members	6,671	5,000	1,671
Contributions from Others	4,602	3,500	1,102
Meeting Fees	1,900	1,400	500
Reimbursements			-
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
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 of 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

The VOTER welcomes articles from you. Please submit them to: lwvpaoffice@gmail.com or bbparker@comcast.net no later than the first Monday after the first Tuesday of each month, but earlier submissions are most appreciated.

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

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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>
Rep. Anna Eshoo (650) 323-2984
<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