

**The League of  
Women Voters of  
Alameda**

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LWVA Communications Committee.  
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**The League of Women Voters** is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We work to raise understanding of major policy issues and influence public policy through education. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and reached consensus on. In an era of proliferating powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.



# VOTER

**Promoting Political Responsibility through Informed  
and Active Participation**

Volume 48, Number 7, July-August 2016

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## **National League Initiates Making Democracy Work® Campaign for 2016 Elections**

**SOURCE:** [lww.org](http://lww.org) 06/23/2016 | by Kelly Ceballos

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) held its 52nd biennial national convention this week in Washington, DC and set its agenda for the next biennium. Through the Making Democracy Work® campaign, the League will fundamentally reshape our democracy by engaging millions more voters in the election process and strengthening the laws that govern money in politics, redistricting and voting rights so that it is free, fair and accessible to all.

Today, **Chris Carson of Burbank, California was elected unanimously by the more than 700 delegates gathered at the Marriott Wardman Park. Carson, elected to serve a two-year term, will be the national organization's 19<sup>th</sup> president.**

In her acceptance speech, Carson thanked members for entrusting her with the leadership of this 96-year-old organization. "It's an honor and a privilege to stand here today, thank you for choosing me to be your president. There is no doubt that today, our political situation is appalling, but it is not new. Much of our society's greatest progress is born out of challenging times and the same can happen today as we tap the power of women to create a more perfect democracy."

Throughout the gathering, **delegates rallied around the League's 2016 Campaign for Making Democracy Work®, setting the League's agenda for the next two years**, vowing to continue our fight for the voters. In addition, delegates reinforced the League's commitment to combat climate change and protect the environment, adopted strong statements on gun safety and DC statehood, and expanded its position on health care to include access to behavioral health services. [to page 6]

## President's Message



### Anne Spanier, Co-president LWVA

In the Annual Meeting President's message I reported that the goal of the League of Women Voters of Alameda is to increase our visibility in our community. I cited our growing membership, our solid financial picture and our varied and well attended events as proof of that success. Additionally I cited our strong and capable Communications committee, our Youth Outreach along with our social programs like the Book Club and First Friday dinners. We are, indeed, an active and engaged league. More important however, is that active and engaged leagues across the country are vitally needed to carry out the important mission of our state and national leagues. Alice and I attended the National (LWVUS) Convention in Washington D.C. in June and met many impressive league members from all over the country. We shared with one another our success stories and some not so successful. The important message from LWVUS is that our combined state and local Leagues must join together and take urgent action to ensure election integrity. Our National League has decided on the election process as the focus for the coming year. The main areas of action are:

- 1) Voter rights protection and mobilization
- 2) Election reform, particularly redistricting
- 3) Money in politics i.e., a study of a constitutional amendment to reduce unlimited and unknown sources of money in our electoral system.

LWVUS will lobby for legislative action on the Voting Rights Advancement Act VRAA, reforming the Federal Election Commission,

and supporting legislation on SuperPacs, Bundling, and other strategies used to flood elections with money, including "dark money" of unidentifiable origins.

The state leagues will be important in the fight against voter suppression acts. State leagues can fight voter suppression tactics by bringing lawsuits on their own or in coalition with other organizations. State leagues can also lobby their congresspersons to enhance voting by the adoption of portable statewide registration and expanded online registration and early voting. Local leagues are on the front lines of voter protection. This year, 2016, is the first year that the VRA is not in full force protecting voters because of a ruling by the Supreme Court. However, we must continue to register voters in underserved communities, register youth in high schools and community colleges, establish and maintain relationships with the Registrar of Voters to coordinate voter outreach, and monitor polling place locations. We must engage voters as well.

The Convention was successful in passing a redistricting position based on concurrence. After a thorough examination of all the existing positions by states that have redistricting laws, the committee selected a broad description that allowed 12 states that have no redistricting laws to use in the activities leading up to the 2020 census. However, more work needs to be done on the calls for a constitutional amendment. California is considering such a ballot measure for November and our presence is needed now more than ever. The National Convention to be held in Chicago in 2018 should be worth watching.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit [LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html](http://LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html) for more information

- Monday 4 July**      **JULY FOURTH CITY OF ALAMEDA PARADE. LWVA will be entering!**  
Ride in a convertible! Wear a big hat! Carry a banner! **Demand Votes for Women!** Contact Deborah Wright at [wrightwaydesigns@hotmail.com](mailto:wrightwaydesigns@hotmail.com) (510) 908-3939 to participate. **Riders and walkers welcome.**
- Saturday 6 August**      **LWVA BOARD RETREAT**  
9:00 AM-2:00 PM      Plan priorities, committee work and events for 2016-2017. All LWVA members are welcome. **First Congregational Church**, 1912 Central Ave. @ Chesnut. Breakfast snacks provided, lunch sandwiches ordered in. New and outgoing Board members and committee chairs are expected to attend. Anyone with ideas to share is encouraged to participate, especially our new members.
- Monday 22 August**      **BOOK CLUB**  
3:00-4:30 PM      **Game Changers: Twelve Elections That Transformed California** by Steve and Susie Swatt, Jeff Raimundo and Rebecca LaValley. Discussion led by Kathryn Duke. **Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Center** [felicez@ymail.com](mailto:felicez@ymail.com), 865-4329
- Thursday 15 Sept.**      **LWVA BOARD MEETING**  
7:00-9:00 PM      All LWVA members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings. **Alameda Hospital**, 2070 Clinton Ave. @ Willow, Conference Room C.
- Thursday 22 Sept.**      **LWVA FALL OPEN MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
7:00-9:00 PM      **Fall season activities launch for members, guests and the public.** Learn what the League is planning to do this election season, and how you can participate. Information about volunteer opportunities will be available. Location TBA.
- Monday 26 Sept.**      **BOOK CLUB**  
**Being Mortal** by Atul Gawande. Discussion led by Marti Burchell. **Applebee's Restaurant**, 2263 South Shore Center [felicez@ymail.com](mailto:felicez@ymail.com), 865-4329
- October (dates TBA)** **ELECTION FORUMS!**  
Watch for two or three candidates and pros and cons evening forums prior to the November general elections. Contact Dorothy Kerwin [kerwindorothy@gmail.com](mailto:kerwindorothy@gmail.com), 769-9159 if you would like to help plan the forums, participate, or register voters.
- Thursday 20 Oct.**      **LWVA BOARD MEETING**  
7:00-9:00 PM      All LWVA members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings. **Alameda Hospital**, 2070 Clinton Ave. @ Willow, Conference Room C.
- Tuesday 8 Nov.**      **ELECTION DAY! GET OUT THE VOTE!**

## **LWVA 2016-2017 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS elected at Annual Meeting June 25**

### **Officers:**

President: Alice Fried (alicefried89@gmail.com) (510) 593-9572  
VP Administration: Ruth Dixon-Mueller (dixonmueller@yahoo.com) (510) 865-2439  
VP Programs: Patricia Young (PYoung098@gmail.com) (510) 239-4980  
VP Membership: Doris Gee (dorisgee48@gmail.com) (510) 521-2117  
Secretary: Cynthia Silva (Cynthia.silva26@yahoo.com) (510) 523-4677  
Treasurer: Marian Breitbart (mbreitbart@mac.com) (510) 769-1604



### **Board members:**

Action Co-chair: Karen Butter (karenbutter@comcast.net) (510) 769-9634  
Action Co-chair: Felice Zensius (felicez@ymail.com) (510) 865-4329  
Communications: Georgia Gates Derr (t.derr@comcast.net) (510) 263-9075  
E-mail manager: Keasha Martindill (KBJbarretts@sbcglobal.net)  
*Voters' Edge*: Juelle-Ann Boyer (juelleannboyer@gmail.com) (510) 715-6002  
*Voter* newsletter: Mari Clark (meclark922@gmail.com) (510) 769-6875  
Voter Services: Dorothy Kerwin (kerwindorothy@gmail.com) (510) 769-9159  
Webmaster: Lisa Yap (lyap22@hotmail.com) (408) 930-2969

### **Budget chair and at-large members to be appointed August-September 2016**

### **Additional contacts:**

Book Club: Felice Zensius (felicez@ymail.com) (510) 865-4329  
First Friday Socials: Jeff Cambra (jeffcambra@earthlink.net) 865-7369

**Check out the bios of (some of) your Board members at  
[LWVAlameda.org/LWVBoard.html](http://LWVAlameda.org/LWVBoard.html)**



## NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

With the noise of beer drinkers and televised soccer games filling the air, 44 LWVA members and several guests crowded into the inner dining room (past the mounted moose head) at **Speisekammer Restaurant** to celebrate the ritual of our 2016 Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 25th.

The food was excellent (the sound system, not so much). We enjoyed a salad and buffet with delicious Schweinebraten (roasted pork in beer sauce), Grilled Salmon Filet on a bed of sautéed spinach served with cucumber-dill sauce, Baked Spätzle with European cheese and caramelized onions, and sides of Grilled Broccolini, Mashed Potatoes and Sauerkraut. Dessert was Apple Strudel with whipped cream.

Opening the program, **Alice Fried** introduced **Dr. Joi Lin Blake**, president of the College of Alameda. In a humorous and stimulating presentation, Dr. Blake shared her thoughts on a number of issues close to the hearts of League members such as civic engagement and civility and social responsibility. Dr. Blake is passionately committed to education that promotes social commitment, social justice, and economic and social equity. “Together,” she concluded, “we need to honor our responsibility not only to those in the Alameda community but also the global community. That will make democracy work!”

**Anne Spanier** called the meeting to order at 1 PM, proceeding through the membership credentials report, appointment of a parliamentarian, adoption of the agenda, and approval of minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting. **Kate Quick** introduced several former LWVA presidents, followed by Anne’s presentation on the State of the League. Read what Anne has to say on page 5 of your mailed Annual Meeting kit, with additional comments on **page 2 of this VOTER!**

**Marian Breitbart** presented the Treasurer’s report (page 6 of your kit) and **Ted Frey** the report from the Budget Committee (pages 6-8). Ted noted that our outlook for the current fiscal year is favorable. The MYPO fundraiser once again exceeded budgeted revenues, at \$6,200, thanks to the hard work of **Deborah Wright** and her team. Our total income from dues, contributions and fundraising reached \$14,304 in the fiscal year ending June 2016. Expenses (including per member payments to national and state leagues) fell short of budget to leave us with a net surplus of.... \$373!

Members voted to accept, with one exception, the Board-recommended changes to LWVA’s local positions presented by **Ruth Dixon-Mueller** (pages 14-20), some of which had been deleted and the remainder edited. A motion was passed to reinsert our position on the Port of Oakland, pending further study. Positions of the County Council of the Alameda County Leagues were not considered.

The slate of officers, directors and elected Nominating Committee members for 2016-2017 presented by Nominating Committee chair **Karen Scanlon** was approved, with no nominations from the floor. **See page 4 of this VOTER** for a list of our new Board members and their contact information.

Alice then took the floor to engage us all in her vision of what the League could and should be doing in 2016-17 to mobilize and educate voters on the key issues of the day, particularly those relating to voting rights. She encouraged everyone to get involved in League activities and to attend the Fall Open

Membership Meeting planned for Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup> to learn about volunteer opportunities (see Event Calendar on page 3 of this VOTER).

When asked for directions to the Board, several members suggested that LWVA take a more proactive stance on the Port of Oakland with respect to the impact of its activities on Alameda, especially increased air traffic from Oakland Airport and the proposed shipments of coal and other products out of the Port. The Board was asked to consult with the Oakland and Bay Area leagues to coordinate our positions. It was also suggested that LWVA engage in more outreach with local organizations to encourage a more diverse membership.

### **Announcements:**

**Deborah Wright** appealed to members to join her in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade on her decorated LWVA convertible ([wrightwaydesigns@hotmail.com](mailto:wrightwaydesigns@hotmail.com)).

**Shubha Fanse** ([shubhaf09@gmail.com](mailto:shubhaf09@gmail.com)) announced plans to reconstitute the Health Care Committee and asked for those interested to contact her.

**Georgia Gates Derr** ([t.derr@comcast.net](mailto:t.derr@comcast.net)) asked us to complete the Communications survey, which is also posted online at [lwvalameda.org/2016\\_LWVA\\_Communications\\_Survey.html](http://lwvalameda.org/2016_LWVA_Communications_Survey.html).

**Doris Gee** presented raffle prizes to two lucky winners: two tickets to The Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma in Berkeley in August, and a \$40 gift certificate from Speisekammer.

The meeting closed with Alice's warm thanks and the gift of a white orchid to Anne Spanier for her many years of service to the League, especially this last one as co-president. Anne will still be with us, however, so it's not goodbye. You'll be sure to find her out registering high school students to vote and participating in many of LWVA's activities next year.

### **NEWS BRIEF [continued from page 1]**

A League member since 1983, Carson served as the government director of the California League from 2005-2009 and was first elected to a two-year term on the League's national Board in 2014. **Carson has led the League's redistricting reform task force for the past four years and has been the organization's national advocacy chair since 2014.**

Throughout the weekend, convention participants heard from a variety of speakers including *Give Us the Ballot* author and journalist Ari Berman, *NPR's* Peter Overby, Joe Goldman of the Democracy Fund, Jennifer Lawless of American University's Women & Politics Institute, Amanda Taub of *Vox & the New York Times*, Keesha Gaskins of Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Lake Research Partners' President Celinda Lake. A panel of election experts on protecting and expanding the electorate was held on Saturday and included Christine Chen, APIAVote; Kristen Clark, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; and Arturo Vargas, NALEO. All of the speakers commended the League and urged the organization to press forward using our community-based power on the critical issues of the day.

**Watch the address by newly elected LWWUS President Chris Carson on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FS-UW77Ab6Y>**

**JOIN LWVA! IT'S EASY! VISIT <http://lwvalameda.org/join.html>**