



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

VOTER

PIEDMONT, CALIFORNIA • MAY 2010



Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation

CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 5

Meeting of the LWVP Board
519 Magnolia Avenue
9:00 am • Open to all members

Thursday, May 6

Election Forum: candidates and propositions. City Hall, 7:30pm

Wednesday, May 12

Annual Meeting of the LWV of Piedmont; Spring Luncheon \$25. Reservations required.

Tuesday, June 8

Statewide Primary Election

June 11– June 15

LWV United States Convention in Atlanta, Georgia

ELECTION IS COMING!



You have until May 24, 2010 to register to vote in the June 8 Statewide Primary Election. It's an important election: we choose which state office candidates will be on the November ballot, as well as vote on five important propositions with topics ranging from insurance rates, voting requirements for local electric providers, property tax exemptions for earthquake improvements, public funding for Secretary of State elections, and how California will conduct future elections. If you want to vote by mail, send in the back cover of your Sample Ballot by June 1, 2010.

ANNUAL MEETING AND Spring Luncheon



Wednesday, May 12, at 9:30 am
24 Caperton Avenue, Piedmont

\$25 Send check payable to *LWV Piedmont*, to 155 Woodland Way, Piedmont 94611 OR, call John Matzger at 655-4785 for reservation and pay at door. Deadline for reservations: May 7



Speaker: **ANYA FERNALD**
Director, Live Culture Co.

Anya Fernald has worked for a decade with small- and medium-scale food producers in business and market development and has worked on sustainable food projects in over 30 countries. Anya is the founder and director of Live Culture Co., an Oakland consulting company that builds innovative sustainable food businesses. Live Culture Co.'s subsidiary Live Culture Productions also produces an annual event, the Eat Real Festival. Anya began her career in food working in rural development in southeastern Sicily developing and implementing a business and marketing plan for artisan cheesemakers. Anya then directed programs for the Slow Food Foundation in Italy, developing and implementing a micro-investment program that supported small-scale artisan food producers in over 30 countries. Anya returned to her home state of California to lead a Farm-to-School program, and the California Buy Fresh, Buy Local Campaign for Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF). Anya launched the inaugural edition of "Slow Food Nation" in San Francisco in 2007, serving as the organization's Executive Director. She has co-authored two books with Slow Food, and has written for numerous publications. Anya's work in building distribution systems and infrastructure in California has been written about in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Newsweek*, she has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Via Magazine*, *San Jose Mercury*, and many other publications. Anya is a regular judge on the Food Network's "Iron Chef America" and a season judge on the 2009 season of "The Next Iron Chef."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This being the final Voter of this League year, I've been taking a look back at this rich and action-packed year for the Piedmont League. Our first community forum last September was about healthcare reform and attracted many more people than we had expected. The other issues we've showcased at these meetings have also been ones that are important to our League and the community: state budget and governance reform, education, foster care, and Bay Area regional climate change initiatives. We've had two major community events this year, but our Civic Hosting Project in October in collaboration with the Oakland League will top the highlights of League accomplishments for many years to come. County and city officials praised the two Leagues for the fabulous job we did in organizing activities for our Russia visitors. In February we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the League of Women Voters in the United States at an event at the Community Hall where we recognized the valuable work of many women and men over the past nine decades to educate voters and influence public policy. Our election forums attracted many Piedmont citizens and helped to further the civil discourse in our community.

Clearly we are not above tooting our own horn. With the Oakland League we have applied for a Pioneer Award at the LWVUS Convention

for our Civic Hosting Project as a model of an innovative and dynamic collaboration that served the Russian officials, our two communities, as well as our memberships' development. We'll keep you posted about the outcome.

But the work does not slow down with the year's end. We've only just begun one important initiative: the formation of a Task Force to take a close look at the devastating cost overruns of one of the undergrounding projects in Piedmont. We also anticipate being able to schedule a town meeting about the Blair Park project following the release of the project EIR and the 45-day public comment period.

We look forward to a new Board taking office mid-June; already some of the incoming members are attending Board meetings and committing to attending workshops and training. Tam Hege and Sue Kawaichi will be our delegates to the League's national convention in Atlanta in June. Cathy Dinnean will attend the LWVC Council in May and several members will attend the one-day LWV Bay Area Convention in Castro Valley at the end of May.

Our League has been invigorated by new members joining and stepping into leadership positions, by member-initiated efforts to look at ways to improve city governance, by

challenges to our deliberative and nonpartisan ways of doing things, and by dedicated League volunteers who want to spotlight the value of our involvement in civic affairs. Our redesigned Voter has attracted new attention to the League; our reinstated membership orientation has helped to bring new members into the League community more quickly, and our new theme of "bringing it home" to focus our League on local issues has brought positive recognition from not only our members, but from the Piedmont community as well.

This is my last President's Message of my term as the League's president and I'd like to thank the Board I served with and the League membership for making the past two years an amazing and rewarding experience. Your kindness, hard work, support, and terrific League loyalty have been inspirational.

Lianne Campodonico

Lianne Campodonico, President
League of Women Voters of Piedmont

ELECTION ON JUNE 8!

THE LEAGUE ★
RECOMMENDS ★

Vote YES on Proposition 15.

Vote NO on Proposition 16.

Read more about our recommendations for advocacy for this Statewide Primary Election.

LWV PIEDMONT ANNUAL MEETING KIT



9:30 am • WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 • 24 CAPERTON AVE., PIEDMONT

THIS CENTER SECTION of the *Voter* contains information for your use during the annual meeting of the Piedmont League. Please print these 4 pages and bring them with you. The Annual Meeting will be followed by our speaker, Anya Fernald, and the Spring luncheon.

AGENDA

Call to Order at 9:30 am
Welcome, Announcements, and Introduction
Adoption of Order of Business & Adoption of Rules of the Day
Appointment of Parliamentarian, Timekeeper, and Committee to Read Minutes
Approval and adoption of minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting
President's Report
Treasurer's Report
Presentation, discussion, and adoption of the 2010–11 Budget

Presentation and debate on recommended local and county positions
Presentation and debate on recommended local program proposals
Proposals from the floor
Review and vote on local and county positions

Nominating Committee Report
Nominations from the floor

Election of Officers and Directors
Directions to the New Board
Acknowledgments
Adjournment

NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD 2010–2011

Co-President	• Tam Hege
Co – Pres. (VP Admin)	• Sue Kawaichi
VP Program	• Marj Blackwell
Secretary	• Joannie Semitekoll
Treasurer	• Ward Lindenmayer
Action	• Carole Levenson
Voter Editor	• Cathy Dinnean
Voter Service	• Peggy Phillips Karen Hoefs
Membership	• Marella Guigou
Communications	• Mary Ann Benson
LWVBA Rep	Lianne Campodonicio
Affidavits	Trish Gorman
Agenda Insights	Ann Chandler
Assistant Treasurer	John Matzger
Program Committee	Susan Schroeder Carol Brown Andrea Swenson
Diversity Films	Kay Cheatham Louise Linford
Hospitality-Luncheons	Kay Cheatham
Hospitality-Meetings	Karen Christensen
High School Liaison	Susan Freeman
Great Decisions	Kim Ellis
Observer City Council	Gayle Sells
Observer School Board	Ann Trutner
Publicity	Teddy King
Smart Voter	Betsy King Winifred Walters
Nominating Committee	Marlene Sakol
Webmaster	Julie McDonald
Fundraiser	OPEN
Mgmt. Training Advisor	Bonnie Hamlin

Attend board meetings •

TREASURER'S REPORT

We still have about two months left in our fiscal year ending this June and barring any surprises should end up with a loss of about \$2,000. If so, our reserves will end up at about \$17,000, which is an ample amount and more than our annual budget. Our decisions this fiscal year to postpone the annual fundraiser, to celebrate the League's 90th Birthday, and to print the new edition of the *Piedmont Our Town* largely explain the loss. Fortunately, we did collect an unbudgeted \$1600 from hosting visitors from Russia together with the Oakland League.

This next year we project a profit of about \$400 providing we hold a fundraiser. With the increase in our payments to the national and state leagues, the percentage of the dues you pay to us that stays in Piedmont is 8%. For that reason we want to give a special thanks to those who contribute to our Education Fund. Next year you will be well served by a new treasurer, as I move over to become Assistant Treasurer.

—John Matzger

INCOME

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20000 Non Profit Income	
20001 Fundraiser	\$1,800.00
20003 Map Sales	150.00
20005 Piedmont Our Town	825.00
20007 Donations to LWVP operations	300.00
20009 Affidavit Project ROV Alameda Cty	756.00
Total 20000 Non Profit Income	\$3,831.00
20010 Membership Dues	
20012 Membership Dues Individuals	\$5,280.00
20014 Membership Dues Seniors	2,200.00
20016 Membership Dues Couples	\$1,710.00
Total 20010 Membership Dues	\$9,190.00
20020 Donations to Ed Fund	1,300.00
40000 Luncheons & Speaker events	1,500.00
45000 Great Decisions Discussion Group	640.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$16,461.00

EXPENSES

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50000 Dues & Subscriptions	
50010 LWVUS—Per Member Payments (PMPs)	\$4,668.00
50020 LWVCA—PMPs	3,590.00
50030 LWVBA—PMPs	157.00
50040 Alameda County Council	20.00
Total 50000 Dues & Subscriptions	\$8,435.00
60000 Advertising/Position Publicity	100.00
60050 Promotional	
60051 Facility Rentals	\$150.00
60053 Printing, copies, etc.	150.00
60055 Catering, luncheons	1,200.00
60057 Speaker gifts	100.00
Total 60050 Promotional	\$1,600.00
60060 Office Expenses	\$216.00
60062 Board expense	150.00
60066 Website Hosting	160.00
Total 60060 Office Expenses	\$526.00

60070 Stationery & Printing	\$100.00
60072 Printing - newsletter	576.00
Total 60070 Stationery & Printing	\$676.00
60075 Postage	\$109.00
60076 Postage - The Voter	176.00
Total 60075 Postage	\$285.00
60080 Supplies for Election/Education	
60081 Easy Voter Guide	\$0.00
60082 Civics in Action Award	125.00
60083 Voter Service Materials	500.00
60084 Smart Voter support	500.00
Total 60080 Supplies, Election/Education	\$1,125.00
60085 Piedmont Maps production	0.00
60090 Taxes & Licenses	
60093 Sales Tax Owed	100.00
Total 60090 Taxes & Licenses	100.00
60095 Great Decisions Group	640.00
70000 Insurance	500.00
70050 Legal & Professional Fees	
70052 CA Dept of Corp filing	\$20.00
Total 70050 Legal & Professional Fees	\$20.00
80000 Conventions/workshops	0.00
80010 LWVUS Convention registrations	0.00
80020 LWVCA Convention/Council reg.	1,650.00
80030 Workshops	150.00
80040 Travel airfare and hotel	350.00
Total 80000 Conventions/workshops	\$2,150.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,157.00
Net Operating Income	\$304.00
Other Income	
30010 Interest Earned	\$100.00
30020 Miscellaneous Income	0.00
Total Other Income	\$100.00
Other Expenses	
90000 Special Projects	\$0.00
Net Other Income	\$100.00
Net Income	\$404.00

LOCAL PROGRAM

The Board recommends re adoption of the following positions.

GOVERNMENT

1. Library

Support the availability of free, publicly supported library services for all Piedmont citizens. These services should be equal to the services provided by major library systems. We believe that, as a responsible member of the Bay Area community, Piedmont should pay its fair share for quality library services. (1995)

2. Planning Process

The planning process in Piedmont should be efficient, consistent and fair. Efforts should be made to balance the needs of the individual citizen with the needs of the community while maintaining the character and residential nature of Piedmont. (1991)

3. Disaster Preparedness

The League of Women Voters supports a comprehensive Disaster Preparedness Plan for Piedmont that includes responsibility and cooperation of the city, schools neighborhoods and individuals. (1992)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Open Space

Support the enhancement and recreational development of open space for the use of all citizens of Piedmont subject to: public safety, appropriate access, adequate maintenance, controlled use, environmental impact and financial impact. (1985)

SOCIAL POLICY

1. Education

Support a high level of education within the Piedmont Unified School District. (1948)

2. Housing

Current state law recognizes the need for additional housing, and the League of Women Voters supports Piedmont's providing its fair share. Its members believe Piedmont can reach this goal without changing the character of the city or impairing the quality of life now enjoyed by its citizens. The need for affordable housing should be balanced with the need for open space; environmental needs should also be addressed. (1992)

3. Diversity

The League of Women Voters of Piedmont will continue to embrace diversity and pluralism through education, coalition building, outreach, and interactive studies. (2000)

LOCAL PROGRAM 2010-2011 (PROPOSED)

The Board recommends the following issues for emphasis:

1. Track the implementation of the Piedmont Climate Action Plan.
2. Track and examine Piedmont governmental processes regarding major city projects such as Blair Park, Undergrounding, and the Civic Center Master Plan.

PROPOSED ADDITION TO LWV PIEDMONT BY-LAWS

Section 8. Meetings by conference telephone or other means

Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone, electronic video screen communication, or other communications equipment, as well as email. Participation in a meeting through use of conference telephone constitutes presence in person at that meeting so long as all directors participating in the meeting are able to hear one another. Participation in a meeting through use of electronic video screen communication or other communications equipment (other than conference telephone) constitutes presence in person at that meeting if all of the following apply:

- a. Each director participating in the meeting can communicate with all of the other directors concurrently
- b. Each director is provided the means of participating in all matters before the board, including, without limitation, the capacity to propose, or to interpose an objection to, a specific action to be taken by the LWVP
- c. The LWVP adopts and implements some means of verifying 1) that all persons participating in the meeting are directors of the LWVP or are otherwise entitled to participate in the meeting, and 2) that all actions of, or votes by, the board are taken and cast only by directors and not by persons who are not directors.

Members of the board may participate in a meeting through use of email provided:

- a. All members have email.
- b. The president or other convener designated by the Board formally calls the meeting, giving the agenda and the beginning and ending times for the meeting.
- c. A majority of board members currently in office responding to the call constitutes the quorum as per Article IV, Section 7.
- d. All motions, debate, and votes are sent to the president or convener, who forwards them to all members.
- e. Seconds are not required for motions.
- f. The time allowed for discussion and voting on a motion is specified by the president or convener, but may not be less than three days or more than one week.
- g. The meeting ends at the specified time unless formally.

RULES OF THE DAY

QUORUM

Eighteen (18) members (10%) will constitute a quorum at the LWVP meeting.

VOTING

Voting is limited to LWVP voting members. Associate members cannot vote. A majority vote is required to adopt or amend the agenda and the rules of the day. A 2/3 vote is required to change the order after adoption. A majority vote is required to adopt the budget and recommended items.

DEBATE

Any member, upon recognition by the Chair, shall address the body stating his/her name and shall limit his/her remarks to the question. Debate shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker unless time is extended by the chair. No person shall speak twice to a question until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so.

COUNTY POSITIONS

1. Juvenile Justice

The Alameda County Council of the League of Women Voters supports policies which promote services to meet the needs of Alameda County youth and minimize delinquency. (1977, Update 1997)

2. Children's Mental Health

The Alameda County Council of the League of Women Voters supports the need for children's mental health services. (Update 1997)

3. Alameda County Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools, and Office of Education (Adopted 2007)

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of governance with accountability to the public and that results in providing services that best meet needs of students and the local school districts.

- a. Efficiency
- b. Effectiveness
- c. Equitable Balance of Responsibility and Authority for Governance
- d. Accountability to the Public

MONITORING

- a. Continue observing
- b. Monitor Web site
- c. Review Grand Jury Reports



LWV PIEDMONT ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

In preparation for the election on June 8, LWV Piedmont presents an **ELECTION FORUM**

A discussion of the state ballot pros and cons, and statements by candidates for Alameda County elections, with Questions and Answers.

THURSDAY, MAY 6
City Hall Chambers, 7:30pm

LWV PIEDMONT UNDERGROUNDING TASK FORCE

In March a League selection committee appointed Alex Gunst, Rob Hendrickson, Kathleen Quenneville, Mary Heller, and Al Peters to its Undergrounding Task Force. Included in its mandate are these goals: 1) to increase public understanding of the facts surrounding the undergrounding controversy and project cost overruns, 2) to assure that corrective action is taken by the City. The Task Force members held its inaugural meeting on March 30, and attended the Audit Committee subcommittee's first meeting on March 31. Task force member Al Peters spoke during the public comment period and informed the subcommittee about the Task Force and its mandate. Their efforts so far have been organizational and directed at understanding the scope the Council's Undergrounding Audit Subcommittee has delineated for its work and the documents made available to date. However, the Task Force's scope will be broader than the subcommittee's. Specifically, the Task force intends to investigate how and under what assumptions the District was formed (including a review of all related contracts), how the City staffed and performed on the project, how and when the cost overruns were discovered and communicated, how the City responded, and whether the City's actions were in compliance with their own policies and best practices. Documents and Subcommittee agendas may be viewed as this City's website:

<http://www.ci.piedmont.ca.us/committees/ccasc.shtml>.

PIEDMONT OUR TOWN

We're pleased to announce that the League's booklet, *Piedmont Our Town*, has been updated and reprinted, and is now available for purchase at City Hall. This publication describes Piedmont's history, government structure, and relationship to regional bodies. There is a directory of websites and phone numbers which every home should keep readily available.



Also available at City Hall is the League's pocket map of

Piedmont. No newcomer, nanny, or house guest should be without one.

Booklets and maps are sold for \$3 each, or any two pieces for \$5. Pay with cash, or checks payable to "League of Women Voters Piedmont."



**DIVERSITY
FILM
SERIES**

THURSDAY, APRIL 29
Wildwood School Auditorium

Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes

In this riveting documentary, filmmaker Byron Hurt takes an in-depth look at manhood, sexism and homophobia in rap music and hip-hop culture.

6:30 Refreshments • 7:00 Film Showing • 8:00 Discussion

Welcome!

LWV Piedmont is pleased to welcome our newest member. We hope to meet you soon.

Sharon Wright
(510) 388-2211

FEEDBACK FOR THE HIGH COURT

Monday, March 15, 2010

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. expressed doubt about having members of the Supreme Court attend the State of the Union address ["Obama vs. Supreme Court, Round 2," front page, March 11]. He was upset that President Obama directly criticized the court's 5 to 4 decision injecting corporate funding into candidate elections.

Since the Supreme Court is the opaque and most isolated branch of government, perhaps the justices should recognize that a little honest feedback can be a good thing.

It is particularly important in this instance, since the decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission clearly revealed that the majority on the court has an astonishingly naive view of how corruption works in our nation's capital. Everyone else in the room understood that allowing huge sums of unregulated cash into our elections will undermine the role of individual voters and further expose our elected officials to the siren calls of corporate lobbyists.

Buck up, Mr. Chief Justice. Occasionally there are some things you really need to hear.

—Mary G. Wilson, Washington

The writer is president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, which submitted a friend-of-the-court brief in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission.

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League is open to all men and women age 18 or older. Annual dues are \$60, or \$55 for seniors, or \$90 for two members at the same address. Membership includes participation in Piedmont, Bay Area, California, and National leagues.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____

Email _____

New member Renewal Transfer

Please mail your check payable to

League of Women Voters of Piedmont to
LWV Piedmont, 155 Woodland Way, Piedmont, CA 94611

For further information or dues assistance, please call
Marella Guigou, 835-4241

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Piedmont, in both its values and practices, affirms its recognition of diversity and pluralism as realities which need to be embraced. There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVP on the basis of gender, race, ethnicity, creed, sexual orientation or disability.

