



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

**Richmond
El Cerrito
San Pablo
Pinole
Kensington
El Sobrante
Hercules**

VOTER

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Pat McLaughlin, Editor pro tem

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SEPTEMBER 2008/OCTOBER 2008 CALENDAR

**Monday, Sept. 8th
1:15 pm** **Board Meeting at 33 Revolutions (formerly Central Perk)
10086 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito**

**Wednesday, Sept. 10th
1:15 pm** **Kensington Unit Meeting – Home of Pat McLaughlin
39 Stratford Road, 525-5187**

**Tuesday, Sept. 16th
11:30am** **A discussion on the Redistricting Proposition 11 and the Leagues position. A Brown bag luncheon, at the El Cerrito United Methodist Church.
6830 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito**

The director of the statewide redistricting database will present the current state of legislative districts, and how they are determined, followed by a representative from the League who will present the CALWV position on the proposition.

**Saturday, Sept. 27th
10:00 am** **Proposition Speaker's Training
El Cerrito United Methodist Church
6830 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito**

**Saturday, Oct. 11th
11:00 am** **Proposition Pros & Cons
Contra Costa Community College, Room LA 100**

**Saturday, Oct. 18th
10:00am** **Proposition Pro & Cons Presentation
Location to be determined, possibly Harding School
7230 Fairmont Avenue, El Cerrito**

This will be a joint meeting with the AAUW.

League of Women Voters

West Contra Costa County

June 2, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order by President, Linda Young, at 1:25 pm.
Present: Linda Young, Janet Abelson, Maria Alegria, Betty Brown, Myrtle Braxton, Pat McLaughlin, Jean Lipton, Pat Player, Robert MacDonald, Louise Vogelsberg, Willa Sudduth. All Board members present. Bonnie Hamlin did not attend.
2. Minutes of May 2, 2008 meeting approved with two corrections as follows:
Under Discussion Items, item 5 **first paragraph delete “by Bart”**. Item 5 **second paragraph add “State” after the word “on” and before the word “budget”**
3. Treasurer’s report made by Pat McLaughlin as follows: Received contribution of \$90 in memory of Sylvia Irwin. Cost of renting P.O. Box has doubled. Balance as of May 31, 2008 is \$5,844.03. All PMPs paid in full. No new members.
4. Discussion Items:
 - A. President will release the voting rights to the National Conference in Portland, Oregon - June 13 to June 17, 2008 as no one from LWVWCCC can attend.
 - B. Janet Abelson is the only Board member who will be working the polls.
 - C. The General Membership Outing on June 17, 2008 to Sacramento via the Train was discussed. Everyone should meet at the Richmond Train Station at 9:15 am. The topics to be discussed when meeting with Legislators are (1) Support of SB840, (2) The League’s position on Immigration & (3) Funding for Education. It was suggested that Janet contact the League’s Lobbyist for assistance. Janet will look on the Internet for additional information.
 - D. The Summer Retreat will be held on July 23, 2008 a location to be determined; the meeting will start at 11:30 am. Linda will look into securing a larger place for the Retreat. Members should bring bag lunch to Retreat. There will be no Board meeting until the July 23 Retreat. League’s position on the Parcel tax, approval of June minutes and report on Membership Train trip should be on the Retreat agenda. The Retreat will be in lieu of the July Board meeting. There will be no Board meeting in August.
 - E. Janet stated that she donated the new Brochures. The brochures were distributed to each member.
 - F. Discussed the July 4, 2008 event in El Cerrito. The League will share table 18 at the event. The League’s table should have 30 new brochures, voter registration forms, the brochure on former prisoner’s right to vote and fact sheets and petitions that Betty Brown will furnish.
 - G. The Voter will be published after the July 23 meeting.
 - H. The theme for the October General Membership meeting is “Local issues on the November Ballot.” No General Membership meeting will be held in September.
 - I. Maria Alegria made a report regarding the housing position of the Vision and Just Cause Organization.
5. Reports:
 - A. Betty Brown reported on status of SB840. On June 24 OneCareNow supporters are going to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors to seek their endorsement of SB840.
 - B. Bob MacDonald, El Cerrito City Council Observer, reported that he attended the May 5th and May 19th El Cerrito City Council meetings. He did not report that he observed any irregularities at the meeting.
 - C. Jean Lipton reported that the League has a new contract with the County for the Adopt-A-Box project. She reported that there are currently 70 outlets and she will be taking on new outlets.

6. Members discussed the importance of a WEB site. Janet Abelson oversees the LWV WCCC phone line. Janet forwards the messages from callers to appropriate Board Members to follow-up on issues.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.

Minutes taken by Myrtle Braxton, Acting Secretary

General Membership Meeting
11:30 am - Tuesday, September 16, 2008
El Cerrito United Methodist Church
6830 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito

This meeting will be devoted to ballot Proposition 11, the Redistricting Measure which the State League is actively supporting. It will be a brown bag luncheon meeting, and we expect it will be a very interesting and informative discussion.

Karin MacDonald will give a presentation on the current state of legislative districts, how they are determined and what consequences results from different criteria for redistricting. Ms. MacDonald is the Director of the Statewide Database (the state redistricting database), which resides in the Institute of Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley.

Jinky Gardner, past president of the Berkeley League, will present the Leagues position on the measure.

Following the presentations, there will be an opportunity for discussion.

Leadership Training
10:00am Saturday, September 27, 2009
El Cerrito United Methodist Church
6830 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito

This will be a training session for all who are willing to participate as speakers on the Pros & Cons for the ballot measures. We always receive many requests from groups around the area for speakers, and we really need as many of you as possible to sign up for training. The League is noted for, and indeed was founded on the ideal of providing voter education! So please contact Pat McLaughlin (525-5187 or pat@patricia-mclaughlin.net) if you are willing and interested. Hope to see you at the training! As the old WWII poster said: "We Need YOU!"

Coming Attraction
Joint Meeting with AAUW
Saturday, October 18, 2008
Location to be announced

Mark your calendars! The meeting will be our discussion of the Pros & Cons for the November ballot measures. This, of course, will be an unbiased presentation and the League's positions will not be discussed. The meeting will be open to the public, and hopefully held at the Harding Elementary School Auditorium.

Welcome New Members:
Susan Moss and Nancy Salzman

West Contra Costa County League of Women

Voters Visits State Capitol

The League of Women Voters West Contra Costa went on our trip to Sacramento in June. Our group of nine included 2 high school students whose expenses were funded by our unit. We visited the offices of Senator Tom Torlakson and Assembly Member Loni Hancock. Unfortunately, the Assembly and the Senate were quite busy that day and we were unable to meet with either member. We did have some productive meetings with their staff.

During our visit, we were able to share information about the LWV and our positions, learn about what's happening with the state budget, and expose our members and several high school students to our state government. The students will use this trip as the basis for their service learning project in their upcoming senior year in high school. I was quite proud of these two students who both did an excellent job of presenting their information.

In addition, we used public transit as we traveled to and from the Capitol by BART, the Capitol Corridor, an AMTRAK bus for a temporary construction bus bridge between Martinez and Fairfield, and a Sacramento bus. It was quite scenic as we skirted the Bay and the Delta.

We had an especially interesting conversation with Richard Zeiger, Chief of Staff for Senator Torlakson. The main point he made was that the state budget was not likely to pass soon. In addition, he commented we will likely see the state run out of money before the budget gets passed because of the inability of the Senate and the Assembly (especially the Senate) to get the 2/3 required votes to pass the budget. Mr. Zeiger was quite pessimistic.

We presented packets of materials from the website of the League of Women Voters of California on "About the League", Campaign Financing, AB 583, Health Care Reform: Evaluation Criteria, the Budget Crisis in California: Budget "Reform" Lacks Vision, as well as the LWVUS Immigration Position and our local league brochure. In addition, the two students each spoke about relevant issues in their local school district.

Janet Abelson, LWWCCC, Vice President - Membership

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

DATE _____
NAME _____ PHONE (home) _____ (work) _____
STREET _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____
E-MAIL _____ FAX _____

\$ _____ Dues For: New Member: Renewal:
Payable: Annually: Semi-Annually: Quarterly: Donation: \$ _____

DUES: \$55/year (This includes per member payment (PMP) to LWVUS (\$23.80), LWVC (\$21), LWVBA (\$1), AND LWWCCC). Donations over and above \$55 are gratefully accepted.

DUES ARE PAYABLE IN MARCH

QUESTIONS: Call Janet Abelson, at 510-525-7709

Make checks payable to: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Mail to: Pat McLaughlin, Treasurer
League of Women Voters West Contra Costa County
P.O. Box 1618
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Dues and contributions to the League are **not** tax deductible.
Contributions to the Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law.