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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – April 2005

As member needs and information technology change over time, it is important for organizations such as the League to revisit what it does, and determine whether a new mode of transmitting information will be more useful and timely. Obviously, our basic mission remains – but the question is how best to accomplish this mission.

At our Bay Area Council meeting on Saturday, May 14, we will be taking the opportunity to obtain feedback on our products and communication modes. For example, I can observe from reading local League Voters, that very little of what we include in our monthly electronic Voter is printed in your local mailing. There are, of course, space limitations in your Voters, and/or it may be that the information is forwarded electronically – so we'd like to know. We have expanded the information on our website to include the LWVBA Voter, upcoming meeting information, action letters, and Decision Maker publication. There is a separate website for The Monitor, a bi-monthly publication on issues of regional importance. We also annually publish a Directory of local League officers in the Bay Area, and update our Action on Issues every two years.

I look forward to the feedback from your delegates to our Council meeting, and welcome any suggestions you may want to send me directly as to how we can be more effective in serving your information needs about the Bay Area and LWVBA.

Linda Craig, President
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area
president@lwbvba-ca.org

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Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities

Quarterly Meeting – February 2005

LWVBA is one of about forty members of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities. The Bay Area Alliance was instrumental in achieving the Smart Growth Vision/Sustainable Footprint for the Bay Area a few years ago.

At the February meeting of the Bay Area Alliance, a panel of speakers presented information about Sustainable Community Initiatives. They included Randy Hayes, City of Oakland, who talked about the Green Building Ordinance and Oakland's target to use 50% renewable sources of energy by 2017. Ann Hancock, Coordinator of Sonoma County Climate Protection Campaign (www.climateprotectioncampaign.org) talked about all that can be done locally to reduce greenhouse gases. Van Jones, Exec. Dir., Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, presented his program for "Green Jobs, not jails" to train incarcerated persons for jobs that protect the environment.

Other topics presented included the Bay Area Council's Bay Area Family of Funds which funds programs that have a combined social, economic, and environmental return on their investment.

There will be a Green City Visions program "Rebuilding the City" on Tuesday, May 31, 2005 in Oakland (www.ecocitybuilders.org).

I was encouraged that a professor at Sonoma State brought his students to the meeting, and they had a lot of questions. Any LWV member may attend these meetings and if these are your interests, please let me know.

Linda Craig, President
LWV Bay Area

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LWVBA COUNCIL

Saturday, May 14, 2005

Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 Charleston Road, Palo Alto

Registration: 9:30 am

Meeting: 10-noon

In addition to adoption of the budget, reports on actions and other activities will be presented by portfolio directors. Will hold small group discussions to obtain feedback on LWVBA products and priorities and to solicit information from local Leagues as to how the LWVBA can serve their needs. Cost is \$15 per League. Two delegates are suggested but all may attend at this fee. RSVP to treasurer@lwvba-ca.org by May 11.

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Calendar:

Friday, April 8, 2005, 11:30 – 1:30, Natural Resources/Water Committee. EBMUD Bldg, 375 11th Street, Oakland., 8th Floor. Presentation on the Moffett Field Site 25 clean-up.

Wednesday, April 13, 2005, 12:15 – 2 p.m., IN Committee North. Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville League office, 1414 University Avenue Suite D: Phone 510-843-8824.

Thursday, July 14, 2005, 12:15 – 2pm, IN Committee South. Westminster House, Palo Alto.

Please send agenda items to Iris R. Winogron: programvp@lwvba-ca.org.

Friday, April 22, 2005: LWVCEF—Democracy Dinner at the Fairmont Hotel, San Jose. For details see: http://www.ca.lwv.org/lwvc/donate/demo_dinner_2005.html

SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, September 24, 2005 — Know Your Bay Area Day

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Web Sites:

Bay Area Monitor: <http://www.bayareamonitor.org>

LWVC: <http://www.ca.lwv.org>

LWVBA: <http://www.lwvba-ca.org>

LWVUS: <http://www.lwv.org>

Smart Voter: <http://www.smartvoter.org>

Barbara Boxer: <http://boxer.senate.gov/>

Dianne Feinstein: <http://feinstein.senate.gov/>

Emails:

Barbara Boxer: senator@boxer.senate.gov

Dianne Feinstein: senator@feinstein.senate.gov

George W. Bush: president@whitehouse.gov

Arnold Schwarzenegger: Governor@Governor.ca.gov