



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

VOTER

PIEDMONT, CALIFORNIA • JANUARY 2012



Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation

CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 4

Meeting: LWV Piedmont Board
14 Mesa, Piedmont • 9am

Thursday, January 12

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT
Piedmont City Hall • 7:30pm
See article on this page.

Wednesday, January 18

PROGRAM PLANNING & LUNCH
80 Florada • 10am – 1pm
See article on this page.

Thursday, January 26

GREAT DECISIONS GROUP
Organizational meeting and books
12 Bonita Avenue • 1pm
See article on page 6

Saturday, February 4

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY
Housing and the Bay Area's Future
1st Unitarian Church • 9-2pm
See article on page 4

Welcome!

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

Jennifer Cavanaugh

1691 Grand Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611
510-428-1442
jcavanaugh@sbcglobal.net

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT



Thursday, January 12

City Council Chambers • 7:30pm

The League of Women Voters of Piedmont will host a candidates' forum in the city council chambers of Piedmont City Hall on Thursday, January 12. The community is cordially invited to meet the three candidates running for two seats on the Piedmont City Council: **Margaret Fujioka**, **Bob McBain**, and **Tim Rood**. They will be followed by the five candidates running for three places on the Board of Education: **Sunny Bostrom**, **Jon Elliott**, **Sarah Pearson**, **Richard Raushenbush**, and **Andrea Swenson**. Each candidate will present opening and closing remarks, and respond to questions from the audience. Find out what the candidates think!

The evening will close with a discussion of **Measure A**, the municipal sewer surtax, with Michael Rancer presenting the argument for, and Rick Schiller presenting the argument against the measure.

Dale Rogers Marshall will serve as the evening's moderator. Those unable to attend are invited to view a simulcast of the event on KCOM-TV, channel 27. Election day for the City of Piedmont is February 12.

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING AND SOUP LUNCH

Wednesday, January 18

80 Florada • 10am – 1pm



January 18 is the day we'll hold our annual Program Planning Meeting and Soup Lunch at Tam Hege's home. This year we will make recommendations concerning program issues for LWV United States and for LWV Bay Area. On alternate years we participate in program planning for LWV California.

The Program Planning process is an important grassroots League tool for identifying issues for study. This year LWVUS has requested that Leagues report what LWVUS positions, if any, have been used in League work in our community.

You can prepare for participation in Program Planning by looking at **Impact on Issues, 2010-2012**, which is available on the LWVUS website www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues. Our response is due March 1, 2012.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR! On January 23 the Lunar New Year will welcome the Year of the Dragon. The Dragon is symbol of good fortune and sign of intense power. In Eastern philosophy, the Dragon is said to be a deliverer of good fortune and a master of authority. Therefore, those people born in Dragon years are to be honored and respected. Hopefully, 2012 will be a year of good fortune for all of us and an improved economic climate.

Our December Holiday Lunch was a tremendous success. We had almost fifty attendees to hear Senator Loni Hancock make a wonderful presentation. The Senator was warm and engaging, but also frank in her assessment of California and in her response to our questions. She is a strong supporter of the abolition of the death penalty. We circulated the SAFE petition to abolish the death penalty and collected almost 40 signatures. We are extremely grateful to the Lindenmeyers who offered their home for our event and were delighted by their beautiful home, amazing nutcracker collection and Tucker (the dog with the cone). Special thanks to Helle Vistisen who did such a fabulous job in organizing the luncheon.

There are a number of events for this month including our Candidates Forum on January 12, Program Planning Meeting on January 18, and the first meeting of Great Decisions on January 26. It's a busy month, but hopefully a great way to start 2012

Sue Kawaichi, President
League of Women Voters of Piedmont

**WE are the leaders we have
been waiting for!**

—Sweet Honey In the Rock Musical Group

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PIEDMONT

2011–2012

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Carrie Chapman Catt (1859 – 1947) was a leader in the women's suffrage movement. She tirelessly campaigned for the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution which gave U.S. women the right to vote in 1920. Catt served as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and she was also the founder of the League of Women Voters and the International Alliance of Women.





LEAGUE ASKS CONGRESS TO FIGHT PUBLIC CORRUPTION

In December, The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Lamar Smith, House Judiciary Chair and John Conyers, Ranking Minority Member endorsing **HR 2572, the Clean Up Government Act of 2011**. HR 2572 would restore important tools for federal prosecutors fighting public corruption.

Honorable Lamar Smith, Chairman
 Honorable John Conyers, Ranking Member
 House Committee on the Judiciary
 United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510



Re: Full Committee Markup of H.R. 2572, the “Clean Up Government Act of 2011”

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Conyers, and Members of the Committee:

Today our organizations write to strongly endorse and call for swift committee passage of the “Clean Up Government Act of 2011” (H.R. 2572), which is scheduled for full committee markup on December 1. Among other things, this legislation will restore important tools for federal prosecutors fighting public corruption – revisions to the Honest Services and illegal gratuities statutes.

Last year’s Supreme Court decision in *Skilling v. United States*, 130 S. Ct. 2896 (2010), eliminated an entire category of deceptive, fraudulent and corrupt conduct from the scope of what was known as the Honest Services fraud statute (18 U.S.C. § 1346). For decades, §1346 was available to prosecute public officials who engage in malfeasance, such as undisclosed self-dealing. Unfortunately, the *Skilling* decision effectively struck down as unconstitutionally vague the Honest Services language. Consequently, there remains a gaping hole in the ability of federal prosecutors to address a vast swath of public corruption. This revised version of the honest services statute is constitutionally sound and heeds the Supreme Court’s directive for more clarity and specificity.

The “Clean Up Government Act” addresses the Court’s concerns about vagueness and lack of clarity by borrowing existing language from 18 U.S.C. § 208, a well-established federal conflict-of-interest statute that already applies to the Executive Branch and that has been upheld as constitutionally sound by the Supreme Court and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Notably, under the proposed statute no public official could be prosecuted unless he or she knowingly conceals, covers up, or fails to disclose material information

– which the official already is already required by law or regulation to disclose – with the specific intent to defraud. Thus as crafted, H.R. 2572 removes the risk that a public official can be convicted for unwitting conflicts of interest or mistakes.

The legislation also revises the illegal gratuities statute which was eviscerated by the Supreme Court in *United States v. Sun-Diamond Growers*, 526 U.S. 398 (1999). The bill makes clear that public officials may not accept gifts given because of their governmental positions. In addition, responding to *United States v. Valdes*, 475 F.3d 1319 (D.C. Cir. 2007), the bill makes clear government officials who accept private compensation for using the powers their jobs afford them may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Our organizations applaud Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL) for their bipartisan leadership on this issue. We urge all committee members to support and pass this critically needed reform legislation to ensure that prosecutors have the tools they need to fight public corruption.

Sincerely,

League of Women Voters of the United States
 and other organizations

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

Members are encouraged to go to <http://www.lwv.org/blog/look-back-2011> for a review of the LWV accomplishments during 2011.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BAY AREA



The Voter reminds Piedmont League members that they are also members of the Bay Area League. This annual event is an opportunity for broader education, League style, and is well worth considering.

COME TO BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY!

HOUSING AND THE BAY AREA'S FUTURE

Saturday, February 4 • 9am – 2pm

First Unitarian Church of Oakland • 685 14th Street at Clay, Oakland, CA 94612

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DAVID ROSEN, a leading expert in the field of affordable housing, finance, policy, land use, lending and investment strategic planning.

Other scheduled speakers include

Ken Kirkey from the Association of Bay Area Governments
Duane Bay from San Mateo County's Department of Housing
Richard Marcantonio from Public Advocates
Jack Nagle from Goldfarb & Lipman LLP
Linda Mandolini from Eden Housing
Susan Friedland from Affordable Housing Associates
Tim Iglesias from the University of San Francisco
Mary Murtagh from EAH Housing
Elaine de Coligny from EveryOne Home



Three panels will look at the problems facing housing today including

- * implementation of SB 375
- * sources and uses of public money
- * difficulties of community support



In addition there will be panels of experts on

- * meeting regional housing needs in light of the sustainable communities' strategy
- * difficulties of financing affordable housing
- * how to serve the hardest to house

There will be time for questions from the audience during each panel.



COST:

In advance: \$30 (\$15 without lunch).
At the door \$35 (\$20 without lunch).

REGISTRATION:

To register please write a check payable to "LWVBA" and mail, including your name and any guest names, to: LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.

Registration is also available online through January 27 via PayPal at <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

For more details, call (510) 839-1608 or send an email to editor@bayareamonitor.org



The *Voter* wishes to sincerely thank Ward and Elaine Lindenmeyer for inviting the Piedmont League to hold our holiday party in their home, surrounded by their beautiful collection of nutcrackers.

PIEDMONT LEAGUE HOSTS STATE SENATOR LONI HANCOCK

In early December, close to sixty members of the Piedmont League enjoyed an inspiring holiday celebration that featured remarks and answers to many questions by our State Senator, Loni Hancock, followed by an excellent lunch. Guests included Jenny Waggoner, President of LWV California.

Senator Hancock began by noting that we live in fragile economic times, and the challenge, now, is how to restore the California dream. She feels that Jerry Brown gets more bills signed and honestly confronts the problems we face; in spite of very difficult decisions, we will have an honest budget. But revenues are down and *must* be increased. Because it is impossible to get the mandated 2/3 required to pass tax increases, there is no choice but to make “horrible” decisions. “We have to vote for things we hate.” Brown has included mandatory triggers that will take effect if revenue isn’t increased, and there will be even more devastating cuts to public services. Senator Hancock noted that California is one of only three states that requires a 2/3 vote on tax and budget issues; whereas all other states only require a simple majority.



Former LWV Piedmont President Lianne Campodonico with LWV California President Jenny Waggoner.

One issue Senator Hancock discussed at length was the California correction system, which she characterized as “totally broken.” The prisons are seriously stressed, and running them is costing us a fortune. She has written an abolition bill which would end the death penalty in California and save a lot of money. The League is one of the organizations that supports this bill.

Members brought up a number of other questions and concerns, all of which Senator Hancock answered carefully, with compassion supported by facts. All agreed that the event was highly successful, and added that lunch was delicious!



We filled three rooms with members enjoying lunch following their meeting with Senator Hancock.

LWV PIEDMONT: ANNUAL FISCAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

PROFIT AND LOSS: July 2010 — June 2011

INCOME

20000 Non Profit Income	1,262.24
20003 Map sales	77.00
20005 <i>Piedmont Our Town</i> sales	210.00
20007 Donations to LWVP Operations	160.00
20009 Affidavit Project ROV Alameda	815.24
20010 Membership Dues	8,640.00
20012 Individuals	2640.00
20014 Seniors	2,309.75
20016 Households	1620.00
20020 Donations to Education Fund	1847.87
40000 Luncheons and Speaker Events	1,450.00
45000 Great Decisions Discussion Group	528.00
48000 Other income (insurance refund)	1,032.58
TOTAL INCOME	14,760.69

EXPENSES

50000 Dues and Subscriptions	8,247.57
50010 LWVUS – Per Member Payment	4,648.05
50020LWVCA – PMPs	3,599.52
50050 Bank Charges	2.70
60050 Promotional	2,067.41
60053 Printing; copying	821.16
60055 Catering, Luncheons	1,156.25
60060 Office Expenses	628.99
60062 Board Expense	31.77
60064 Membership Expense	221.66
60066 Website Hosting	160.00
60070 Stationery and Printing	625.57
60072 Printing of Voter Newsletter	625.57
60075 Postage 140.35	
60076 The Voter Newsletter	88.00
60077 Non-Voter, Non-membership	52.35
60080 Election/Education Activities	650.00
60082 Civics in Action Award	150.00
60084 Smart Voter Support	500.00
60090 Taxes and Licenses	65.58
60093 Sales tax (Board of Equalization)	65.58
60095 Great Decisions Group	510.00
70050 Legal and Professional	20.00
70052 Civics in Action Award	20.00
80000 Conventions & Workshops	10.00
80030 Workshops (LWVBA Workshops)	10.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 12,968.17

NET OPERATING INCOME 1,792.52

BALANCE SHEET: as of June 2010

ASSETS

Current Assets	
10000 Main Checking	10,294.80
10020 LWVCA Education Fund	3,693.96
Total Current Assets	17,597.29

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

11900 Alameda County Liabilities	(636.00)
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TOTAL NET ASSETS

16,961.29



Plan Ahead

The Voter is pleased to announce upcoming League events of great interest to many members, and suggests that you get them on your calendar in order to avoid disappointments.

First, on **Thursday, March 22, at 7pm**, we will host Stuart Moody who will show slides and discuss “Rethinking Plastics.” Stuart initiated the Rethinking Plastics Campaign in Marin County, which has been a major force in raising civic awareness of the plague of plastic pollution. He will also show a short slide presentation titled “Bring Your Own Bag.” We hope to be joined by Connect groups from both Piedmont and Oakland.

Next, following the recent study on Federal Funding for Education, the Piedmont League anticipates participation in a second nationwide LWV Study. The topic is Privatization, another complicated question on which we hope to reach consensus. The study is in early stages, so we have not received questions yet, but we will keep track of progress, and participate when appropriate.

And finally, we are very pleased to announce that the speaker at our annual meeting in May will be Alecia DeCoudreaux, the recently appointed President of Mills College. Details will be announced later.



GREAT DECISIONS 2012

Each year, the LWV Piedmont hosts a series of discussions based on the topics chosen by the Foreign Policy Association's **Great Decisions** materials. The subjects selected by 2012 are newsworthy and are chosen to inspire participants to learn about the world beyond their own communities. Beginning at the end of January, the group will consider the following eight subjects, one at each meeting:

- Middle East Realignment
- Promoting Democracy
- Mexico
- Cyber Security
- Exit From Afghanistan and Iraq
- State of the Oceans
- Indonesia
- Energy

The discussions are always enlightening and give new perspectives on current news matters. Signing up for the series is as easy as one, two, three:

1. Send a check for \$23 payable to LWVP to Kim Ellis, GD Chair, 12 Bonita Avenue Piedmont, CA 94611
2. Add your email address, clearly written, please.
3. Attend the organizational meeting on January 26 at 1pm at 12 Bonita Avenue to receive your book and help decide discussion dates.

Your check holds your briefing book and your place on the list of discussion members.



Piedmont City Council

Members of the Piedmont City Council are elected volunteers who serve their community without compensation. Under the City Charter, a councilmember may be elected for no more than two consecutive four-year terms of office. However, after a full term has elapsed (4 years), councilmembers may again run for office. Staggered elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of February in even numbered years. **VOTE FEBRUARY 7!**



KCOM-TV, Cable Channel 27, is Piedmont's government & education access station and is located right in City Hall. Its sole focus is to act as a communication link between our city government and the residents of Piedmont. All meetings of the city council, school board, planning commission, recreation commission and parks commission are televised live on cable TV as well as being streamed live to your computer through the City of Piedmont website (<http://www.ci.piedmont.ca.us/kcom/>). If you are not able to have the opportunity to see these meetings live, they are stored on-line for viewing at any time by going to the same website and choosing 'online video'. You will even have the option of scrolling through the meeting agenda and watching a specific item of interest to you. DVD copies of meetings are available to order through the website as well.

Other public meetings of interest to the community are filmed by KCOM. Special forums sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Piedmont are filmed when they are held in city hall. In fact, if you missed the LWVP Civic Engagement Forum held on November 17th, it is being re-run on KCOM Channel 27 every day at 12:30 p.m. The forum received rave reviews (see related article) and would be well worth your while to watch.

Don't miss **Agenda Insights**, brought to you by LWVP. Ann Chandler provides an introduction to City Council meetings which is broadcast at 7:15 p.m. immediately prior to the meetings held the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month.

— From Piedmont Patch



Piedmont (Bonita) School in 1908. It was later named after Frank C. Havens, and rebuilt in 1960 and 2010.

LWVUS IS SETTING PRIORITIES

LWVUS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In January, the LWVUS Board of Directors will be setting the League Legislative Priorities for the upcoming year. Setting these priorities for LWVUS action at the national level is an annual responsibility for the Board. Once again, the Board is soliciting suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities from members. If you are interested in making suggestions to the Board, please consider the goals and criteria as listed below. While the LWVUS has numerous positions under which we might take action, the Board must prioritize and consider those issues where we might be able to make a difference.

According to the LWVUS Impact on Issues, the goals for setting priorities to guide the LWV advocacy work are to:

1. Enhance the League's effectiveness by concentrating resources on priority issues
2. Build the League's credibility and visibility by projecting a focused and consistent image
3. Ensure that the League has sufficient issue and political expertise to act knowledgeably
4. Enable the League to manage resources effectively

In setting legislative priorities, the Board considers the following:

1. Opportunities for the League to make an impact
2. Program decisions made at Convention and/or Council
3. Member interest
4. Resources available to manage effectively



If you would like to make suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities, please email Advocacy Committee Chair Judy Duffy: jduffy1wv@aol.com. Please indicate whether the suggestions are from an individual member, a committee, board or membership meeting. Suggestions must be received by January 15.

It's Easy to Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. Members under 18 years old, or who are non-citizens, are non-voting Associate Members. Annual dues are \$65, or \$60 for seniors, or \$100 for two members at the same address. Membership includes participation in Piedmont, Bay Area, California, and United States Leagues.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____

Email _____

New member Renewal Transfer

Please mail your check payable to

**League of Women Voters
9 Abbott Way, Piedmont, CA 94618**

For further information or dues assistance, 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.