

The Palo Alto VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto

April 2011

Vol. XXV
No. VIII



How the Health Care Law Affects You, and the Next Steps

Monday, April 4 at 7pm
Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
505 East Charleston Rd • Palo Alto
Speakers: Dr Jay Jackman of Physicians for a National Health Program and Lee Lawrence of the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry California



- What does the Affordable Care Act mean to you?
- What pending CA health care reform legislation will help you?

Bring health care reform home to California with this informative panel discussion with Lee Lawrence and Dr. Jay Jackman.

Time will be available for questions and answers about the Medicare gap “doughnut holes”, lifetime limits, pre-existing conditions, young adults on their parents' insurance and preventive care.

Co-sponsors: Action Council of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, League of Women Voters of Los Altos/Mountain View and Palo Alto, California Retired Teachers Association Div. 54, Beth Am Tzedek Council and Peninsula Interfaith Action, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry California, and Avenidas

Questions: Contact Carol Kuiper, 650-941-8190 or rkuiper@earthlink.net ■

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The League is a broadly based, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and involved participation in government through voters service, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League welcomes articles. Please submit them to: lwvpaoffice@gmail.com. Deadline is the first Monday after the first Tuesday of each month.

President's Message



Dear Leaguers,

Horton Hears a Who! written by Dr. Seuss in 1954, the McCarthy era, reverberates in my head these days. To be heard, the tiny “who”, their size so small they can not be seen by elephant eyes or anyone else’s, must all speak together. Every one must speak even the littlest “twerp”. And if they do not, the whole community will be boiled in beezle-nut stew. Of course, Dr Seuss presumes that the whole community has the same goals. And there lies the rub. Not only must we speak but we must convince everyone that our goal, our cause, is the right one, important and urgent. I watch the peoples in the Middle East as they struggle to gain freedom from want and tyranny and I hope they also want freedom to speak and freedom of religion. I listen to our budget woes in the state and fear the loss of precious services such as educating our children and caring for our elderly and disabled. At the national level, I see arguments about the budget deficits being used as cover for getting rid of hard fought goals such as seeking clean air, guaranteeing clean elections, and providing health care for most of us. From here in California, will speaking to my elected representative make a difference? While Horton is talking about protecting the small he is also saying it takes us all to make a difference. So I keep going, plugging along, and glad to know I am with you the members of the League. Today it may look like we are being dragged into a hot boiling stew, but perhaps not. Perhaps we will join the people in the land of Whoville and shout loud enough to make a difference.

Thank you Leaguers for letting me speak a little louder when I speak for you. Thank you for joining me.
Phyllis Cassel

LWV of Palo Alto: Officers, Directors, Chairpersons, (650) 327-9148

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The VOTER is online at www.lwvpaloalto.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

First Call to the LWVC Convention 2011

WHAT: The 65th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California

WHEN: Friday, May 13, through Sunday, May 15, 2011

WHERE: Crowne Plaza Ventura, 450 East Harbor Blvd., Ventura, California

The purpose of the convention is to:

- Elect officers, directors, and three members of the nominating committee for the 2011-2013 biennium
- Adopt a budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year
- Adopt program for 2011-2013
- Adopt amendments to the bylaws as needed.

Join League members from around the state at the LWV California Bi-annual Convention. We will be celebrating 100 years of women voting here in California. **LWVPA is entitled to 6 delegates. If you would like to be a delegate please call Phyllis Cassel or leave a message on the office phone.** The LWVPA covers registration including two lunches and the banquet and hotel costs, (shared room) and we are working on transportation. Delegates are expected to attend plenary sessions, workshops and report back to the members. Registration deadline is April 20. You are also welcome to attend convention as a guest for one or more days, for a fee of course. Please check on the LWVC web site for more information. We would love to have you join us.

If you are interested in attending, please call us, at LWVPA, at (650)327-9148. ■

World Affairs Council

Wednesday, March 30 from 7-9pm

Los Altos Youth Center,

1 South San Antonio Rd., Los Altos

Speaker: Joel Beinin, Professor of Middle East History, Stanford University



World Affairs Council

Thursday, April 14 from 7-9pm

Los Altos Youth Center,

1 South San Antonio Rd., Los Altos

LWV members and friends are invited to a meeting entitled *The Popular Uprising in Egypt*. Refreshments: 7:00 pm; Program: 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Free admission. For information, call Carol Stevens (650) 494-0757. ■

LWV members and friends are invited to a meeting entitled *Meet the International Press* with a panel of Knight Fellows from Stanford University. Refreshments: 7:00 pm; Program: 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Free admission. For information, call Carol Stevens (650) 494-0757. ■



League of Women Voters of Palo Alto First Call to Annual Meeting

May 7, 2011 from 9am to noon

Place to be determined

Featured Speaker: Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

9am—Brunch

9:30am—Welcome our speaker

10:15am—Start formal meeting.

The annual meeting kit will be sent at least two weeks prior to the meeting and will include:

- nominations for the board,
- proposed bylaws changes,
- the 2011-2012 budget and
- the proposed program.

Any person who is a member of the League as of April 7 may vote at this annual meeting.

A notice requesting nominations for the next Board was included in the February *VOTER*. In addition to the recommendations from the nominating committee, nominations may be made from the floor providing the consent of the nominee has been secured.

Based upon the January 22 program planning meeting, LWVPA Board, at its February 1 meeting, approved the recommended LWVPA Program for the coming year, as is written below. The Program consists of action to implement the LWVUS principle and those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action. If a member of the LWVPA wishes to have a program item that is not recommended by the Board, approved at the annual meeting, the recommendation must be received by the Board no later than April 7. See LWVPA Bylaws amended May 2007, Section XI. Such a proposed program item must be voted into consideration by a majority vote and pass by a 2/3 vote.

Recommended LWVPA Program for 2011 to 2012:

1. Continuation of current LWVPA positions and LWV County Council Positions as Approved in May 2010.
2. No new local study.
3. Emphasis on education and action on issues current in the Palo Alto Baylands as per our positions including:
 - a. upgrade of the water quality treatment plant
 - b. closure of the landfill
 - c. provision of recycling and composting services
 - d. flood management
 - e. airport issues.
4. Support continuation of local commuter rail service in cooperation with the LWVs in Santa Clara County, San Mateo County and San Francisco.
5. The LWV of the Santa Clara County Council: LWVPA recommends that the LWVSCC Council emphasize juvenile justice for education and action.

Submitted by Phyllis Cassel ■

Cap & Trade. Continued from page 6 on the REDD initiative (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). Domestically, California may also link up with other states and provinces in the Western Climate Initiative, and with organizations in the Midwest and the Northeast.

Cap-and-trade programs are not new. Beginning in the 1980s, they were used to control emissions, chiefly sulfur oxides, that were causing the acid rain that was devastating forests, lakes, streams, and wildlife. The federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 recognizes cap-and-trade as a possible strategy to control air pollution.

For more information, visit www.arb.ca.gov.

Submitted by Dee Sabiston ■



LWVPA Essay Contest: A SUCCESS

The second annual Essay Contest wrapped up at the League's Holiday Luncheon on December 4. Before we heard from Assemblyman Ruskin, we met the winners' representatives: first place winner Jean Wang of Gunn High School and honorable mention winner Michael Abrams of Palo Alto High School. This year's topic, The Limits of Freedom, gathered 642 hits on the League's website.

Jean received \$500 and Michael \$300. Both were also given one-year memberships in the League. Their heavy schedules interfered with their accepting the awards at the podium -- Jean had a conflict with a San Jose Youth Symphony performance, while Michael was tied up with SAT tests that morning. Their mothers, Yanyan Zhang and Marilyn Abrams, attended the luncheon to accept on their behalf, and Michael rushed in late from testing in time to be introduced.

The LWVPA's essay contest was first held last spring for the 2009/2010 class of juniors, with the topic *Effects of Technology on American Democ-*

racy. Winners were Samara Trilling and Alexandra Messick-Kopel, both editors of publications at Palo Alto High. Alexandra joined the committee planning this year's contest and was extremely helpful in both publicizing the contest and serving as an expert advisor on communicating with today's high school students.

The contest organizing body, the Education Committee, changed the timing of the contest from spring to fall, thinking that students would be less pressured at that time. Chair Nan Prince has laid the groundwork for each contest with the Social Studies departments of the two schools. Students have several weeks to work on their 600-800-word essays, which are reviewed and judged by committee members. Michael Abrams spoke appreciatively about the essay contest as "one of the few chances to write competitively."

The 2010/11 winning essays are posted on the LWVPA web site. *Submitted by Betty Gerard* ■

March 2011 Board Summary

At its March meeting, your board:

- voted to accept the budget from the Budget Committee with a few changes.
- voted unanimously to approve the Bylaws Committee's recommendations for changes. Commendations and thanks are due to the committee chaired by Alice Smith.
- approved the Program recommendations from the January Program Planning Meeting for 2011-12 (see First Call to Annual Meeting on pg. 4).
- discussed plans for the March 22 Baylands meeting.

- agreed to co-sponsor a Health Care Meeting on April 4 (see front of VOTER) with Speakers Dr. Jay Jackman and Lee Lawrence.

The board also learned that:

- League-a-thon (LAT) donations for 2011 have totaled \$5953 so far.
- Joe Teresi, City Engineer for Flood Control will also be a speaker at the March 22 Baylands meeting
- Annual Reports are due March 26.
- we have received PayPal donations of approximately \$400.

Submitted by Trina Lovercheck ■

California Air Resources Board Adopts Cap-and-Trade Regulation

After a day-long meeting on December 16, 2010, the California Air Resources Board adopted a broad-based cap-and-trade regulation to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions. The market-based regulation is designed to allow the affected facilities, which emit 80 percent of the state's greenhouse gases, to find the most cost-effective emissions-reduction strategies to meet the goals of Assembly Bill 32 (Pavley), California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.



“This program is the capstone of our climate policy, and will accelerate California's progress toward a clean energy economy,” said CARB Chairman Mary D. Nichols in a news release about the regulation. “It rewards efficiency and provides companies with the greatest flexibility to find innovative solutions that drive green jobs, clean our environment, increase our energy security and ensures that California stands ready to compete in the booming global market for clean and renewable energy.”

Scheduled to go into effect in 2012, the initial phase of the cap-and-trade program will apply to 360 companies with 600 facilities in the state, and will include utilities and industrial sources. The final phase will begin in 2015 and adds distributors of transportation fuels, natural gas, and other fuels to the list of regulated entities.

Each year, the state will issue annual emission allowances, each equivalent to one ton of carbon dioxide, which it will supply to the regulated entities to cover their greenhouse gas emissions. Yet for every new year, the number of annual allowances will decrease — by 2 percent per year in the initial phase and 3 percent per year in the final phase. At the end of the program in 2020, greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced 15 percent from today's level, down to the level from 1990, as required by AB 32.

Companies that find it too difficult or costly to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to a level within their allowances may buy additional allowances from other companies who, because they have been able to reduce their emissions enough, have allowances they don't need. In the initial

phase, in order to ensure a gradual transition into the cap-and-trade program, CARB will provide free allowances to industries. Certain other entities will also receive allowances to be sold and the revenues applied to projects that advance the goals of AB 32. This flexibility is meant to allow the reduction of greenhouse gases to proceed in a cost-effective and efficient way.

Companies can also cover 8 percent of their compliance obligation by developing offset credits in four areas: forestry management, urban forestry, dairy methane digesters, and the destruction of existing banks of ozone-depleting substances in the U.S., mostly in older refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment.

Global warming is caused by six greenhouse gases: 85 percent from carbon dioxide, 8 percent from methane, 5 percent from nitrous oxide, and 2 percent from a combination of three fluoridated gases. These substances differ in their potential to cause global warming, so for the sake of simplicity in calculations, their potency is expressed as equivalents of carbon dioxide.

The cap-and-trade program also contains provisions to develop national and international offsets for greenhouse gas emissions. At the Governors' Global Climate Summit 3 last November in Davis, a Memorandum of Understanding between the states of California, Chiapas in Mexico, and Acre in Brazil was signed to establish these offset programs and accelerate collaboration **Cap & Trade. Continued to page 4**

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CALENDAR is constantly updated at
<http://lwvpaloalto.org/Calendar.html>

April

- 4 Mon** 7-9pm. New Health Care Law. See page 1.
- 5 Tue** 7:15pm. Board Meeting, Karen Sundback
- 11 Mon** Noon. VOTER deadline.
- 22 Fri** 9am. VOTER mailing, Channing House

May

- 3 Tue** 7:15pm. Board Meeting, Phyllis Cassel
- 7 Sat** Annual meeting & brunch. TBD
- 9 Mon** Noon. VOTER deadline.
- 13 - 15** LWVC State Convention. See page 3
- 27 Fri** 9am. VOTER mailing, Channing House

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- President Obama**.....(202) 456-1414
Send e-mail messages to- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/>
- Senator Feinstein**.....(415) 393-0707
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LWVC GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

Locate your elected officials with your street address
<http://www.guidetogovernment.org/>