



California VOTER

The League of Women Voters of California

Convention 2003 News

March 2003

A Message from the President . . .

It's just amazing.

When times are rough—time seems to stand still.

When events are compelling—time flies.

When deadlines loom—there's never enough time.

The truth is, it feels like yesterday that I looked out over the delegate body assembled in Los Angeles and became your state President. And now, less than two years later, I am inviting you all to join me at Convention 2003 to conclude my term of office and to welcome our new LWVC/EF President.

Convention is the time when delegates representing the grassroots of our organization come together to make the important decisions that will guide us through the next two years. Come join us in Oakland to elect officers and directors, and participate in debate and decision on program emphasis for the next biennium.

Convention is time for discussion, deliberation, debate, decision—four “d” words of importance in making our democracy work and making our League work.

Whether you are a delegate, an observer, an invited guest, or a volunteer, I look forward to meeting you in Oakland at the 2003 LWVC Convention.

Barbara

debate, adoption of program, election of leaders, educational workshops, excitement of speakers, strategizing, camaraderie, and the just plain fun of a statewide convention. Get to know some California Leaguers outside your immediate area! Together you can conquer the world - or maybe solve a small portion of a big problem.

HOTEL RATE AND TOURS

With this in mind, the Committee was able to negotiate a very reasonable hotel rate: \$119, plus tax, per night for a double or single room. Then we planned a full day of pre-convention fun and diverse optional tours to tempt almost every palate.

These events include a daylong winery tour; a gondola ride on Lake Merritt in the heart of Oakland; a Victorian tea and tour at the 1876 Camron-Stanford House; an evening of jazz and dinner at Yoshi's on Jack London Square; morning and lunch at the beautiful new Chabot Space and Science Observatory; a morning or afternoon walking tour of historic Downtown Oakland and Chinatown; and dinner at Chez Panisse, the world-renowned “mother-house” of Alice Waters. Is there more? Yes!

Of course all events are open to Leaguers who live within driving distance and do not require a hotel room.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SPEAKERS

The Convention will open with a bang on Friday morning, when an active, lucky Chinese Lion greets conventioners at

the opening Plenary Session. Thereafter, each Plenary will begin with a brief surprise entertainment. Mixed among the necessary League business will be speakers dealing with current issues of great importance to the League, California, and the nation. We are privileged to have Kay Maxwell, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, as a guest and speaker. As soon as we have confirmation of other speakers, we will announce names by e-mail to the Leagues and press release to the media.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Committee has arranged Convention social events to attract not only Leaguers, but also local and state elected officials, as well as the general public. On the opening day, there will be a ticketed lunch (\$35) with a “headliner” speaker on a topic of great interest to the League. That evening, everyone who has registered for that day will be invited officially to a hosted Gala Reception at the Terraces of the Oakland Museum to rub elbows with elected officials of the Bay Area and the State, and to enjoy entertainment by the Tice Valley Dixieland Band. This will be followed by the traditional “Dine Around” to some of the best ethnic and gourmet restaurants the area has to offer. The Convention Banquet will be on Saturday. It is a ticketed event (\$60) and will be preceded by a no-host cocktail reception.

WELCOME TO LWVC CONVENTION 2003

WELCOME to the League of Women Voters of California 60th in Oakland, at the City Center Marriott Hotel, from 15-18 May 2003 and to the sunny side of San

Francisco Bay! Your hosts, the seven Leagues of Women Voters in Alameda County, are delighted to offer you a well-rounded and exceptional con-

vention experience whether you are a delegate, alternate, attendee, or volunteer.

The Convention 2003 Committee planned this 60th League gathering not only to meet the ideal requirements of an LWVC convention, but also to encourage member participation well beyond the pool of delegates. We see this biennial League event as a celebration of everything the League represents. It is an opportunity for members to connect personally with the official planning,



Continued on next page

HAVE WE GOT WORKSHOPS FOR YOU!

The LWVC board of directors, working with the convention steering committee, have planned an interesting and topical set of workshops for Convention 2003.

The workshops will be divided into three sessions, and each session will be devoted to a

different theme. With the variety of workshops being offered, there should be a topic in each area to appeal to participants' interests!

The first workshop session, on Friday afternoon will be devoted to developing skills. The areas covered are develop-

ing League leaders, learning how to be an effective lobbyist, how to be an effective fund raiser, how to put on a candidates forum, and League basics.

The workshops at the second session on Friday afternoon will highlight current issues, including a look at the juvenile justice system, local campaign finance reform, the California Master Plan for Education, urban infill, and the California budget crisis.

Saturday afternoon's session will focus on cutting edge challenges. These include a more "in-depth" look at the California budget crisis, the water supply in California, our health care system, the electronic frontier, and the survival of the League in the 21st century.

So, if there are several topics which are of interest to your League, be sure to send a full complement of delegates and visitors - don't miss out on any of the offerings!

Carole Levenson

*Executive Vice President and
Convention Committee Liaison*

Welcome to LWVC Convention Continued . . .

We are especially pleased to announce that the entertainment for the evening will be political comedian Will Durst.

MARKETPLACE, PUBS, AND SILENT AUCTION

This popular activity will be located in a convenient area for easy access, immediately outside the Plenary Session. The Committee will do its best to accommodate everyone who requests a space for League merchandise by the deadline. As promised, we'll have a good selection of classic and current political books for sale. It's not too late to make suggestions. We look forward to every League donating a Silent Auction item because most Leaguers truly enjoy the "hunt" and the fun of it.

CONVENTION YAHOO GROUP E-MAIL LIST

The Yahoo group e-mail list called "lwvcconvention" was defined for LWVC's 2001 convention. It is being re-activated to be useful for people who want to find roommates, advertise caucuses, discuss program issues, etc. If you want to enroll send a message to lwvcconvention-subscribe@yahoo.com.

QUESTIONS? GO TO THE CONVENTION HOME PAGE

Check the Convention 2003 home page section "Registration Information" for the name, phone, and e-mail of each committee chair. Direct your questions on specifics to the person in charge and receive a quick and complete answer. Also check the "FAQ" section of the home page for good information.

Y'ALL CAME TO LWVC CONVENTION 2003!

Thought that might catch your attention. Mark 15-18 May 2003 on your calendar (Thursday through Sunday) and plan to join delegates and members of the League from throughout California to celebrate the League's many accomplishments and to ensure the realization of its potential to make an important difference in the future of our localities, our state, and our nation. Our enthusiastic and caring Convention 2003 committee looks forward to seeing you in Oakland in May.

For more information, just go to home.pacbell.net/lwvbae/lwvc2003.htm or go to the Members Only section of the LWVC Web site, to link to it at www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly.

Jo Ann B. Price, Chair

LWVC Convention 2003 Committee

California VOTER

Convention 2003

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About the League:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League has two separate and distinct roles. The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, which conducts our voter service and citizen education activities, is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a nonprofit educational organization. The League of Women Voters of California, a membership organization, conducts action and advocacy and is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation.

The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.

The League invites your comments, letters, articles, and book reviews. They may be sent to the State Office or emailed to Sue Burrows, Communications Director, via our website.

League of Women Voters of
California.

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LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS



Thank you to all our generous donors who have become founding members of the Leadership Circle. Special recognition at convention and in the post-convention VOTER will be given to those who have joined the Circle.

If you would like to join the Circle, please send your donations to the State office at 926 J Street, Suite 515, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Again, thank you so much for
helping to strengthen the League.