

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII COUNTY
PO BOX 4478
KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII 96745

AUGUST 2005

President's Message

I am beginning my two-year term as President of the Hawaii County League of Women Voters. I have lived on the Big Island for ten years and recently retired from my job as correctional educator at Kulani Correctional Facility. I have been a League member for two years and a member of the American Association of University Women for ten years.

I want to congratulate new and returning officers: Barbra Green, Vice President, Sue Irvine, Treasurer, and Marilyn Ednie, Secretary. Sue Dursin will also be acting as coordinator for West Hawaii. Congratulations also to new and returning Board members.

As I take this office, the most encouraging thing to me is the caliber of the officers and Board members and of the membership in general. Lately, our meetings have been well attended and lively.

At the April Annual Meeting, the guest speaker, Angel Pilago, discussed the Community Development Plan, which will be a major concern in the coming months. The membership also broke down the issues for 2005-2006 into nine areas and appointed point persons for each issue. We will continue this organizational work at our next general meeting on Aug. 20, 2005.

Coming events:

1. Our next Board meeting will be at 11:30 on *August 10th* at Tex Drive In in Honokaa.
2. We will have a general meeting on *Aug. 20, 2005*. We do not yet have a venue for this meeting, but you will be informed as soon as possible of the exact time and place.
3. Barbara Bell, Director of the Hawaii County Department of Environmental Management, has agreed to address us at the general meeting on *October 8th*. She is a wonderful and engaging speaker and not to be missed.

Meet your Board Members: I requested short biographies of the Board Members, and some members have responded. The following give a sample of the background and expertise that the Hawaii County League is lucky to be able to draw on.

Marilyn Ednie has lived on the Big Island since 1959 with her husband, Jim Ednie, and has raised three daughters here. She spent seven years teaching in public and private

schools and 28 years in real estate, including 16 years as principal broker of Ednie Realty. She served on the Hawaii Island Board of Realtors; the LWV Education Committee at State level; as Bayshore Towers Board President; and as director, over the years, of Hilo United Methodist Church Board and the Salvation Army Advisory Board; and has been active at First United Protestant Church. She enjoys island recreation such as biking, kayaking, swimming; the luxury of reading; and travel in her motor home on the mainland, visiting family.

Barbra Green grew up on Oahu. She is a graduate of Kailua High School, UH Hilo and UH Manoa. She recently retired from UH Hilo after 18 years as a program coordinator in the College of Continuing Education and five years as an admissions counselor. A life-long tennis player, jogger and walker, she is a recent convert to yoga. She does volunteer work with the American Association of University Women; the Kuikahi Mediation Center; and, more recently, as a docent for the Panaewa Rainforest Zoo. She belongs to two book groups, dabbles in creative writing, and is enjoying learning digital photography.

Robert Zimmerman is currently employed as an Independent Financial Consultant with offices in Hilo and Honolulu. He is a 25 year resident of East Hawaii (Volcano and Hilo). He was educated at Stanford and UH Manoa. His active Civic participation includes: Rotary Club of South Hilo (outgoing President), ARC of Hilo (Board Chair), and Kuikahi Mediation Center (Board Member and Active Volunteer Mediator.) He is married to Beppie Shapiro, member of LWV on Oahu and Hi-Clean Board Member.

Many thanks to Maiden Temple for reinstating the newsletter.

Aloha,
Marianna Scheffer

ANNUAL DUES 2005-2006

\$35.00 Individual
\$52.50 Household (any or no
relationship of individuals)

Checks may be mailed to:
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1443 Wailuku Drive
Hilo, HI 96720

Make checks payable to "*League of
Women Voters of Hawaii County*"

VOTER is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County, a non-partisan organization established to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

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**Minutes for
League of Women Voters of Hawaii County
Annual Meeting
April 9, 2005, 11 a.m.
Daniel Thiebaut's Restaurant, Waimea**

Angel Pilago, County Council - North Kona, was the guest speaker, starting about 11:15 a.m. He emphasized the need for League members to become active in the Community Development Plan process in order to address the traffic problems in West Hawaii. Although procedures and policies do not exist for determining how and by whom the Community Development Plan will be designed, he encouraged the League to write or call the County administration, especially the Research and Development Department, which has the responsibility of establishing the procedures and policies, and request community meetings. Virginia Isbell, County Council - South Kona, and Cindy Evans, State Representative - District 7, also presented information.

Call to Order: Lois Cecil, 1:05 p.m.

Members Present: George & Marian Wilkins, Gail Laros, Sue Dursin, Marni Herkes, Maiden Temple, David Holzman, Glenys Spitz, Karen Hazelhoff, Sue Irvine, Barbra Green, Lois Cecil, Marie Alvarenga, Trudi Zelko, Marilyn Ednie, Andrea Dean, Virginia Isbell, Cindy Evans.

Guests: Angel Pilago, Jerry Tracy, Bill Grant, Ann Rothstein, Carolyn Heinrich, Mary Hunter.

Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget for 2005-06, Attachment A, were approved. Motion (M) by Herkes, second (S) by Temple.

OLD BUSINESS:

- County announcements: returning to only one president, with Sue Dursin as West side coordinator; Maiden Temple will reinstate the County newsletter; Andrea Dean will handle County public relations; Marie Alvarenga and Lois Cecil will co-chair the Membership Committee.
- West Hawaii report: Holzman reported two new members and that a vote count was just completed.
- East Hawaii: Cecil reported that "Movie and Popcorn Nites" at her house have drawn a good audience. An issue is selected, a related video or DVD is viewed, followed by discussion of the movie and issue. She also reported that Andrea Dean and Jessica Wisneski did a presentation about Clean Elections at UH-Hilo.

- Nominations for new officers: Trudi Zelko presented the slate:

President: Marianna Scheffer

Vice President: Barbra Green

Secretary: Marilyn Ednie

M by Herkes that nominations be closed, S by G. Wilkins, PASSED.

M by G. Wilkins that the slate presented be elected, S by Herkes, PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS:

- M. Wilkins presented the Issues for 2004-2005 and after voting, the following are the Issues for 2005-2006:
 1. Voter education registration and access to voting.
Point Persons: Marian Wilkins and David Holzman
 2. Preservation and public access of *mauka* and *makai* land.
Point Person: Marian Wilkins
 3. Against Hawaii gambling.
Point Person: Gail Laros
 4. Support programs for violence prevention.
Point Person: Marni Herkes
 5. Protect watersheds, forests, and other natural resources.
Point Person: Karin Hazelhoff
 6. Support Hawaii Clean Elections campaign finance reform.
Point Persons: Andrea Dean, David Holzman, Lois Cecil
 7. Put LWV members on County and State boards and commissions.
 8. Support energy conservation and alternatives to oil.
Point Person:
 9. Continued support of initiative and referendum for all issues at the County level.
Point person: Marian Wilkins
- David Holzman presented a proposal for Legislative Advocates, Attachment B. After discussion, agreed that Holzman and Dean will work together on a timeline. Pilago offered to help at the County level.
- LWV State Convention will be held on Oahu on May 21, 2005. Lois Cecil and Trudi Zelko will attend. Two more delegates are needed.
- Next County meeting tentatively set for August 6, 2005. Alvarenga will arrange place and meal.

Adjournment: M by Temple, S by Laros, PASSED. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Maiden Temple, Secretary

Proposal for Legislative Advocates made by David Holzman
(Attachment B to Minutes for Annual Meeting, April 9, 2005)

PROBLEM

There are over 3,000 bills submitted to our State Legislature each session. The House is particularly overwhelmed by the volume of work and issues. If the League wishes to be more effective, we must meet with the Big Island Legislators early in the year and focus our efforts. Waiting until key bills are in committee meetings often can be too late to change minds. Although e-mails, fax and letters help they are not as effective as personal contacts. However, once the session is under way it becomes very difficult to make even phone contact with our legislators much less face to face meetings.

On the Hawaii Council bills are often submitted with little or no forewarning. We sometimes hear about them for the first time in the paper.

SOLUTION

It is recommended that the Big Island Chapter establish Lobbying Teams of two to four members. By sharing the effort no one takes on too much responsibility. Each Team selects two House members, one Senator and two Council members. The numbers and assignments will have to be worked out but, we could have two teams on the West side and two on the East side with one Team in the North.

STRATEGY

Once the National, State and Local Chapter approves issues for the year each Team meets with their assigned Legislators as early as possible before January. The Team goes over the LWV issues with the Legislators and at the same time inquires as to what the Legislator is going to propose or support for the coming session. We learn more about what they stand for and they learn more about us, but the real purpose is to find common ground and begin to work out an approach to getting a bill passed.

TACTICS

Once personal contact of the entire Team has been made with the Legislator then much of the ensuing contact can be by phone or e-mail.

We ignore the issues where there is disagreement and work on the ones where there is agreement.

We are attempting to educate them not to argue with them.

Pass on any and all information on the issues throughout the year. Keep up a constant contact but always try to be informative not critical.

MESSAGE FROM LOIS CECIL, OUR PAST CO-PRESIDENT

Aloha to all members of Hawaii Island League of Women Voters! As we start our 2005-2006 year, may I share a few things I've come to appreciate so much from my experience over the last two years?

I know, I've already thanked you for your support as immediate past co-president. I want you also to know how lucky we are to have Marianna take the helm. Summer is slow-going, but she already is planning a board meeting on August 10th and a county-wide meeting soon after that. She'll attend the State Board meeting on Oahu on August 13th as our representative. Between trips to the mainland and Europe, Marianna held a Clean Elections meeting at her house and a ballot counting session. And, believe me, accomplishing all this, in the midst of learning everything one must know to be president, is daunting.

We're also fortunate to have a strong vice-president in Barbra Green. Barbra has assisted in two ballot counts and directed a third one in Hawaiian Paradise Park in the last few weeks. She's always there when a call goes out for assistance. Both Marianna and Barbra are just retired, so they're still in the leadership mode. Yes, we're poised to move ahead with their leadership.

One thing I sorely missed as co-president was our newsletter. Thank goodness Maiden Temple is once again editing the news for us. This is essential on an island as separated as we are in our East, West, North and South island communities. And now we're growing, and we're in need more than ever of the newsletter. Thank you so much, Maiden!

Another thing we really need is a website. Have you noticed we're the only county without one? Andrea Dean has said she will try to set one up for us, which is generous, with all the other work she has going on. So if she does the website and Maiden edits the newsletter, let's do our part by sending in news. I'm sure they'll thank us.

We now have a number of new and continuing members in and around Waimea – maybe even enough to start another meeting group up there. I'd be glad to help anyone get started on a call for new members from that part of the island. There are LOTS of issues to stimulate discussion and learning at meetings. I'd be glad to share tapes and DVDs.

Last of all, as new membership co-chair with Marie Alvarenga, I'm working hard to upgrade our member list and correct any errors or omissions in our member information. If you have a new email, especially, it's important that we have it to send you the newsletter, give times and dates and places of our meetings, and emergency information

about the nine issues we voted to work on this year – or any legislative surprises that may arise.

Please, also let me know if you don't have a copy of our by-laws, or if there are other questions about how or why we do things as an organization. I'll forward any questions, for which I don't know the answers, to someone who does know. Our goal this year is to have a growing, informed, pro-active group of men and women, and we're definitely positioned to bring that about!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to join **The League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County**, a non-partisan organization established to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Residence _____ Business _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Dues: _____ Individual (\$35)
_____ Household: any or no relationship of individuals (\$52.50)
Additional Name(s): _____

NOTE: Men are welcomed as members.

Mail to: The League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County, PO Box 1006, Hilo, HI 96721

Editor's note: If you received this VOTER by postal mail, we do not have an effective e-mail address for you. We are trying to reduce expenses by using e-mail to send out the newsletter. If you have an e-mail address, please send me an e-mail message with your e-mail address and any corrections necessary for your postal mail address. Please use "LWV member data" in the subject line of your e-mail so I will retrieve it from my spamblocker.

If you received this VOTER by e-mail, please send me an e-mail message confirming your receipt.

Please review the information listed for you in the enclosed Membership List. If you have any changes to your information or you change your e-mail address in the future, please let one of the Membership Co-Chairs, Marie Alvarenga or Lois Cecil, and me know.

Mahalo, Maiden
DaPooh@earthlink.net

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