Bay Area League Convention 2022
Board Report

No one needs to tell you that the preceding two years have been unprecedented in every way you can mention. This Bay Area League Board has been meeting remotely via Zoom for its entire existence. We conducted a Retreat once, and that has been the entire extent of our gathering together and seeing one another in person, for this entire term of office.

But this has been a productive and collegial two years, and I wish to briefly highlight our accomplishments during this term. I'll proceed chronologically.

First, about the **Monitor**. After a quarter-century of producing our flagship magazine as a print publication, the decision was made in the interest of cost savings to produce only digital issues and eblasts. After 17 years of outstanding leadership as Editor, Alec MacDonald stepped down and Michael Adamson took over the editorship. We've enjoyed a significant increase in digital readership.

I also want to acknowledge the outstanding service of Mary Ann Benson, who was our **Secretary** from July 2020 to the end of that year. Thank you so much, Mary Ann. After her retirement, Janet Hagquist became our much-appreciated Secretary, and she will be serving until the end of this month. Deep thanks to Janet as well.

And hail, to our **Observers.** We now have nine observers monitoring regional governance, transportation entities, housing authorities, and water and air agencies.

The Bay Area League supported **Measure RR, the Caltrain Sales Tax** of 1/8 cent in three counties, helping fund Caltrain operations and improvements. The measure passed due, no doubt, to the influence we have over voters.

In November of 2020, we launched our first **Community Conversation,** on "Regional Decisions". The forum covered regional planning, housing, and transportation and their interconnection. More than 170 people viewed the event.

We have formed a **Communications Workgroup,** comprising the communications directors of the local Bay Area Leagues. And it's with a *great* deal of pleasure that I announce that we have a new **Communications Director** aboard, Sheri Thomas, who will help us to have a broader presence on social media platforms, to enhance our outreach to younger voters; and who will lead all aspects of our communications efforts.
Welcome, Sheri!

For our **League Day,** in March 2021, the theme was "Equity in Action", and the program offered tools for implementing equity, and for measurement; described the economic impact of systemic racism; and featured a call to action by California League Executive Stephanie Doute (Dew-tay).

The **Bay Area League Council**, held in May of 2021, included policy briefings on climate change and housing; and featured a League Town Hall session---an interactive forum for local Leagues and County Councils to share their priorities for 2021-2022, and reporting on their successes during this pandemic climate.

Our next **Community Conversation**, in November, 2021, a brown bag lunch via Zoom, was a dialog on "Environmental Justice", examining disparities that impact communities of color; the elderly; children; and those unable to afford food, shelter, fuels for cooking and transportation, or alternatives to contaminated drinking water.

This year's **League Day**, with a "Solving for Housing" theme, looked at the intersectionality of housing with climate change and natural hazard planning; and also the financial implications of housing placement.

We signed a letter with the Greenbelt Alliance and other organizations to support, in general, the final draft of **Plan Bay Area 2050.**

And that concludes my report about what my fine colleagues have been busy producing over the last two years.