



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

VOTER



FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

April 2015

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

REBELS WITH A CAUSE

April 10th

6:00 p.m. Meet & Greet 6:30 Movie
3375 Country Drive, Fremont

Co-Sponsor: Tri-City Ecology



Alameda County
Health Care Services Agency

APRIL 27th MEETING

Alameda County Health Care and The Affordable Care Act

**Speaker: Alex Briscoe, Director,
Alameda Co. Health
Care Services Agency**

**Niles Discovery Church
7:00 p.m. Program,
6:45 Meet & Greet**

**36600 Niles Blvd
(Niles Blvd & Nursery Ave)**

*What effects has the ACA had on
the Alameda County Health Care
System?*



MAY FIELD TRIP

Saturday, May 9, 2015

Field trip to Union Sanitary District

Open House from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

- Demonstrations
- Guided Tours
- New Machine to View

Meet us at the League Office
3375 Country Drive, Fremont
9:15 AM

We will Car Pool to plant site
in Union City

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



We hope you were able to attend one of our March general meetings, "An Evening with the Washington Township Health Care District Board" and "Preventing Gun Violence - an in depth look at where we are". We had wonderful attendance at both and were happy to see some members we've missed for awhile as well as people from our community. It's amazing how much we learn at these meetings.

This month back by popular demand the League and Tri-City Ecology are co-hosting Friday Night at the Movies on Friday, April 10th, with a screening of Rebel With a Cause. Come early to socialize and then enjoy the movie with popcorn and refreshments. Then on April 27th we are excited to have Alex Brisco, Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. Come to this meeting to learn about the state of health care in Alameda County and the impact the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has had on it. For more information on these events go to our website, www.lwvfnuc.org.

Speaking of our website, kudos to Peter Starr for keeping our web pages up to date and relevant. Take a moment to check it out. You can see videos and more from the last Bay Area League Day just by clicking an icon, find information on upcoming programs, join for 2015-16, see what's coming up in the calendar or access our Voter News Letter archives. Peter has developed a Members Resources page in our Members Only site, www.lwvfnuc.org/memonly; the user id and password are inside your Membership Directory. Interested in our Communications Team? Contact Sam Neeman (samneeman@comcast.net).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VP Voter Service	Mary Miller voterservice@lwvfnuc.org
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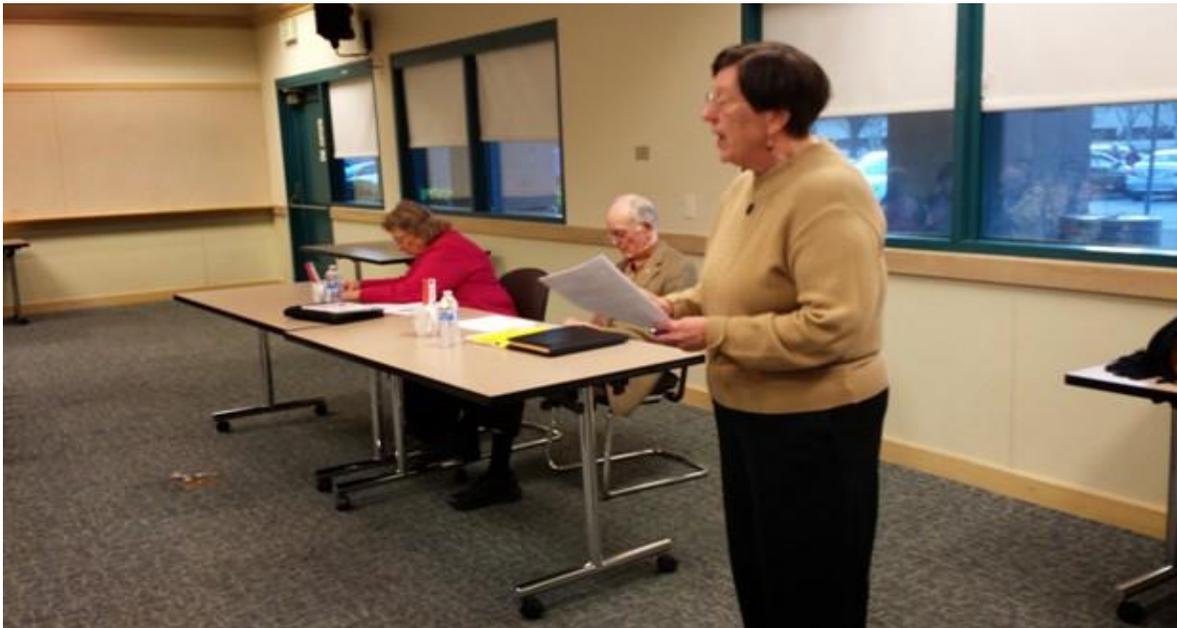
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WASHINGTON HOSPITAL FORUM

A forum with Washington Township Health Care District Board Members Pat Danielson and Bernard Stewart, co-sponsored by our League, the Fremont Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Alameda County Library was held on March 9, 2015.

The board members discussed many areas including the beginning of our public hospital in 1948 with the adoption of a bond measure to build and its opening in 1958. We heard an update on the 2004 Bond Measure FF including the new Morris Hyman Pavilion. This measure funded upgrades for earthquake safety and expansion of the hospital's facilities. There is citizen oversight of the measure and reports can be found online. The 2012 report is at:

www.whhs.com/static/adminuploads/images/CBOC_MeasureFF_CBOC_AnnualReport_2012.pdf

Dr. Stewart addressed the hospital's involvement with and response to the findings of the 2014 report by the Alameda Grand Jury. He specifically addressed C.E.O. Nancy Farber's salary. The Board's goal is to pay at the 65% of average compensation in comparable systems. Her salary and contract are

now on their website, www.whhs.com/. In Dr. Stewart's words "Nancy Farber is as good as they come". He noted other hospitals are struggling financially, Eden Township Hospital, built with public monies, was sold to Sutter Health, whereas Washington is still a public hospital.

Their presentation was followed by questions from the audience. Examples include,

Would the hospital post costs/common procedure? Not yet due to complexity of current system of insurance but it will happen due to the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Would the board consider an email list for interested parties for meeting notices and agendas? They took that idea under consideration.

Are Board policies available online? They took this idea under advisement.

As you can see this was a very informative meeting. This article covers only a small portion of the meeting. We urge you to come in person to our meetings - it's a great way to learn, to see friends and meet new people.



HISTORY OF OUR LEAGUE

Do you remember these days? Can you name these members? In preparation for the League of Women Voters 100th Anniversary we'd like to get some of our long time members to get together to share stories, find old pictures and document our history.

We envision a "history web site" with a number of sections:

- Just the facts - when we started, when we changed from Fremont to Fremont, Newark and Union City

- Photos from the past up to the present
- Stories from our long time members

We are fortunate to have a high school student to help develop the site. Now we need a leader and participants. This can be a very fun project and a chance for long time and newer members to learn about how it all started. Contact Sam Neeman or Carolyn Hedgecock at President@lwvfnc.org if you are interested.

WANTED: GRAND JUROR !!!

The Alameda County Superior Court is currently looking for volunteers from the community to serve on the 2015-2016 Alameda County Civil Grand Jury. The Grand Jury meets in Oakland every Wednesday and Thursday morning starting in July. They have the responsibility to investigate the operations of local government agencies and publish a report at the end of their term making recommendations for change.

More information can be found on our website at: www.acgov.org/grandjury.

Applications for our upcoming term are due May 1st. Please email me or contact Cassie Barner at 510.208.9855 if you would like us to send you an application.

Thank you.

Rob Warren
Grand Jury Advisor
Alameda County District Attorney's Office

Voice: (510) 272-6320
Email: Rob.Warren@acgov.org

The grand jury system has roots in laws traced from ancient Greece, through the Norman system, the Magna Carta and early American and California judicial systems. The United States Constitution specifically refers to a grand jury. The Alameda County civil grand jury is comprised of citizens who act as officers of the Court and are responsible to citizens of Alameda County.

APRIL 27th MEETING

*“Alameda County Health Care
and The Affordable Care Act”*

**Speaker: Alex Briscoe
Director of Alameda County
Health Care Services Agency**

Alex Briscoe, Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency since January 2010, administers programs in Behavioral Health Care, Public Health, Environmental Health, and Agency Administration/Indigent Health. The ultimate mission The Affordable Care Act (ACA) expands access to insurance coverage to about 32 million uninsured Americans by expanding both private and public insurance. The ACA's goals are to increase consumer insurance protections, emphasize prevention and wellness, improve health quality and system

of Health Care Services Agency is to provide fully integrated health care services through a comprehensive network of public and private partnerships that ensure optimal health and well-being and respect the diversity of all resident performance and curb rising health care costs.

Mr. Briscoe will discuss how the ACA has affected the agency he directs and how it has affected Alameda County. A Q & A will follow his presentation.

LWVC HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY

Interested in the state of Higher Education and it's affordability? We've got an app (er, no, a study) for you! Our League is participating in the 2015-16 League of Women Voters of California's (LWVC) Higher Education Study. The emphasis on this study is the accessibility to our higher education system.

Responding to input from local Leagues, the California League LWVC is providing study participants ample time to study and come to consensus. LWVC is

providing study material now at <http://lwvc.org/study/education-0>. The Study Guide is schedule to be posted in August with consensus meetings to be scheduled in March 2016. We are looking for a leader and participants. Interested in leading but think you don't have enough experience? Don't worry we'll find a mentor and the LWVC provides step by step help with their study materials. Take a look at the above URL and lead/join this important study. Please contact Sam or Carolyn at President@lwvfnuc.org to join.

WATER: ALWAYS AN ISSUE IN CALIFORNIA

The LWVC Water Committee monitors current issues and recommends LWVC action concerning this essential, but controversial, element of life and politics in our state. The League remained neutral on Proposition 1, the water bond on the November ballot. Although we could enthusiastically support many of the projects funded by the measure, we had serious

concerns about provisions emphasizing additional surface storage of water and the continuous appropriation of funds to the California Water Commission (CWC) for allocation to storage projects. With the passage of Prop 1, the LWVC has submitted [recommendations to the CWC](#) as it considers how to evaluate the public benefits of water storage proposals.

Would you and members of your League like to be better informed about water in California? Read and share the [Water Committee's update](#), also available on the members only Web site as an article for your Voter newsletter in [PDF](#) and [Word](#).

Questions? Contact Water Committee Chair Roberta Borgonovo, water@lwvc.org.



GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

On March 23rd our League co-sponsored a meeting on Gun Violence Prevention with the Alameda County Brady Campaign Chapter. Held at Fremont Congregational Church, the meeting featured a dynamic presentation by Amanda and Nick Wilcox. The audience of about 40 local residents heard about the mission of the California Brady Campaign and upcoming legislation.

The vision as explained by Amanda Wilcox includes, "...a California that is as safe as it is beautiful; a state where our families and children can thrive free from the fear of gun violence." According to Ms Wilcox and to materials distributed to audience members, the California Brady Campaign Chapters "advocate for sensible gun laws to protect our families and our communities." Ms Wilcox emphasized repeatedly that the Brady campaign does not want to confiscate guns from law abiding citizens. It does want to strengthen existing California laws – the strongest in the nation – by adding to the list of persons prohibited from buying guns to include those convicted of specified firearm-related misdemeanors. They are now advocating support of Senate Bill 347, authored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson.

Senate Bill 347 would extend those persons now included in the Armed Prohibited Persons System (APPS). The Department of Justice (DOJ) operates APPS, which cross-references the database of criminal convictions and other prohibited persons with the state's firearms registration database known as

Automated Firearms System (AFS). The end result is a database of persons who lawfully purchased/acquired firearms and assault weapons and subsequently became prohibited as a result of a criminal conviction, restraining order, felony arrest warrant, and/or a mental health assessment/adjudication. The bill is now in its formative stages with changes occurring in the process.

The entire presentation by Ms Wilcox contained statistics about gun violence, success or failure of prevention methods and examples of actions citizens can take in their daily lives to help reduce gun violence. Some of the easier ways are:

- Store guns safely and separately from ammunition
- Remove unwanted guns from your home – local police can assist you in the proper procedure
- Ask if there are guns in home where children visit – make sure they are safely stored
- Learn facts about gun violence
- Share information about guns and gun violence with family, friends, colleagues, social networks
- Tell your elected officials you support legislation that support gun violence prevention

The League thanks member Toni Shellen for arranging this meeting. It was informative and gave members ways to act of this important topic.

Friday, April 10	Friday Night at the Movies <i>Rebels With a Cause</i>	6:00 PM Meet & Greet - 6:30 PM Movie Meeting Room, 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Thursday, April 16	Action Group	11 to 1 PM , League Office, 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Monday, April 20	LWVFNUC Board Meeting	6:45 PM, Meeting Room, 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Monday, April 27	<i>Alameda County and the Affordable Care Act (ACA)</i>	6:45 Meet & Greet - 7:00 p.m.Program Niles Discovery Church, 36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont

ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE
SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 6th

**Saturday, June 6th
Acacia Creek
34400 Mission Boulevard
Union City**

Mission

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

Diversity Policy

LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community diversity.

Join the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY!

Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join. To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. Members under 18, or non-citizens, are welcome as non-voting Associate Members. Dues include membership in LWVFNUC, Bay Area League, and the California and National Leagues. Financial support for dues is available through our scholarship program. Contact Sets Amann, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) _____

New Member Renewal

Transfer from _____

Address _____

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*Please make your check payable to:
LWVFNUC and mail it with this
form to:*

LWVFNUC-MEMBERSHIP
P. O. Box 3218
Fremont, CA 94539

Individual Membership—\$60

Household Membership—\$90

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\$ _____

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