



FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2013

League to Celebrate The Vote August 24

LWVFNUC will celebrate **Women's Equality Day** at an event on Aug. 24. As the new League year begins, this is an excellent time for members to introduce friends and colleagues to the League. The time and location will be sent to members via e-tree.



Women's Equality Day is a designation that results from a Congressional

Resolution introduced by Congresswoman Bella Abzug. It honors and commemorates the historic date of the ratification of the 19th Amendment—Aug. 26, 1920—on which women in the U.S. won the right to vote after three generations of an unrelenting, courageous, political campaign.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Program	Page 3
Election Monitoring	Page 4
Voter Service	Page 5
Take Action	Page 6
Board Retreat	Page 6

Save the Date

“Obama Care” What You Need to Know, When You Need to Know It



Come learn about the health care options available to you under the new AFFORDABLE CARE ACT beginning in 2014.

Bring a friend and tell your neighbors about this opportunity to learn more about this timely topic.

The meeting is free and open to the general public.

Saturday, September 21
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

at

Fremont Main Library,
2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont

<http://goo.gl/maps/Ubzko>

Co-sponsored with Alameda County Library

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



First, THANK YOU to all our donors and volunteers for the 2012-2013 year.

This issue of the *Voter* shines a light on the work and accomplishments of our League. Last year under Miriam Keller's leadership, the Board and our volunteers accomplished an amazing amount. Read Miriam's annual report on page 8. It's stunning to see what our volunteers accomplished last year. And learn about three of our terrific groups—Voter Service, Program Planning, and the HOA committee—in this issue.

We had a nice turnout for the Annual Meeting at Acacia Creek in Union City. The membership voted in the new Board of Directors who were introduced on our website, www.lwvfnc.org. If you haven't already visited the website, you will discover who was elected to the Board by looking to the right on this page. The membership voted to re-adopt our current local positions. (Please see your Membership Directory & Information Handbook for these positions.) These positions are the basis for any action taken by our League at the local level. And thanks to those of you who gave "Advice to the Board" at the Annual Meeting. We will keep you posted on updates.

At the Board's annual retreat in July, we agreed to take this year to focus on improving our communications and opening more opportunities for our membership to get involved. As we do not have an election until June 2014, the Board adopted the theme "Know Your Communities" to focus the Hot Topics discussions and general meetings. We also agreed we need to get more feedback from you on what is working and what we can do to make your membership more valuable to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with suggestions.

Sam Neeman
Co-President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013-14 Officers

Co-Presidents	Carolyn Hedgecock and Sam Neeman
VP Administration	Miriam Keller
VP Voter Service	Andrea Schacter
VP Program	Ellen Culver
Secretary	Judy Keller
Treasurer	Peter Starr

Directors

Communications	Kirti Reddy
Action Group Chair/Voter Editor	Alex Starr
Social Media	Daria Waggener
Membership	Setsuko Amann
Historian	Isabelle McAndrews
At Large:	Kathy Bray Steve Cho Jean Holmes Pat Lewis Mary Miller

The Voter

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women
Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City
(LWVFNUC)

PO Box 3218 Fremont, CA 94539

510-794-5783

www.lwvfnc.org

Alex Starr, Editor

The LWVFNUC office is located at 3375 Country Drive,
Fremont

Share Your Ideas for Hot Topics

By Ellen Culver, Program Vice President

At this year's retreat, the Board agreed we would focus our general meetings and Hot Topic discussions on getting to "Know your Communities." Hot Topics are a new idea of having either morning or afternoon informal meetings to discuss and learn about things happening in the League and in our community. Let's take a look at what we are planning.

September 21 at 10:00 am—Affordable Care Act, or as I like to think of it: "Obama Care"—What You Need to Know, When You Need to Know It. Information will be presented on Covered California and health care options available.

October 28 at 7:00pm—Fremont's new Chief of Police, Richard Lucero, will be our speaker.

November (date and time TBD)—We are thinking about an afternoon Hot Topic discussion led by Ohlone President, Dr. Gari Browning, updating us about the proposed new buildings for the Fremont campus and other bond-related projects.

December (date and time TBD)—We'll be celebrating the holidays as usual at a location to be determined. We are thinking about having a speaker.

January 2014—After we receive information regarding State and National League programs, we will discuss how and when to get involved with these. One issue will be participating in the National League's position on agriculture. Though we've only one farm left in Fremont, this

could be interesting as there will be decisions to be made on the League's position on genetically modified foods. Who knew agriculture could be so interesting?

In keeping with the Know Your Communities theme, the meeting development team is asking for your help in suggesting Hot Topics ideas to be discussed in small and large meetings.

Maybe you have an outside passion or interest. Maybe you want to know more about a current issue. Even if you are not an active member of LWVFNUC, you probably work with or know people who can share their knowledge of particular subjects.

The meeting development team is also looking for free or reasonably priced venues for meetings. Please let us know if you are aware of one we should check out. Remember, there may be non-profit pricing.

Please e-mail your ideas for Hot Topics, speakers, or meeting places as you think of them to me, Ellen Culver, at ellenmoravek@hotmail.com.

I look forward to your suggestions for meeting topics or speakers (especially for December). Remember our focus this year is "Know Your Community."

Receive the VOTER online!

Save paper, time and League money.

Go to www.lwvf nuc.org/VoterByEmail.html to sign up now.

Win-Win:

Members Provide Service for Homeowner Associations While Raising Funds to Support Our Local League

By Jean Holmes

Many of our members have been volunteering for an activity that both benefits the community and helps to pay our operating expenses. The HOA Committee of LWVFNUC has conducted four to six homeowner association (HOA) elections each year. We sign a contract with the HOA requiring us to take custody of their mail-in ballots, verify those ballots against an “eligible voter list” supplied by the HOA, hand count the ballots at the HOA Annual Meeting, announce the results, and issue a Certificate of Election.

For this service LWVFNUC charges a small fee per HOA voting unit.

The HOA Committee was formed after the State of California required all homeowner associations in the state to amend their by-laws to adopt a standard method for conducting the election of association board members. One of the state requirements is to have “independent inspectors of election” to oversee the election and issue a Certificate of Election.

Recognizing that this was an ideal role for the League of Women Voters, League convened a training session conducted by an attorney familiar with HOA problems and the new regulations. Several members attended from LWVFNUC and became a resource for the rest of us.

Over the past election cycles many League members have participated. We would like to acknowledge: the late (and sorely missed) Vesta Wilson, Miriam Keller, Alex Starr, Carolyn Hedgecock, Andrea Schacter, Barbara Friedrich, Pat Lewis, Kathy Bray, Jane Mueller, Joanne Landers, Joyce Mueller, Sets Amman, John Smith, Sam Neeman, Sarabjit Cheema, and Ellen Culver. Many thanks to all of them.

We work in teams of four to seven Leaguers per election, depending on the size of the HOA. We welcome more election opportunities and more League participants. This is a valuable service we provide to the homeowners associations and a worthwhile use of our League skills and principles.

LWVFNUC Thanks Its 2012-13 Donors

Sets & Regis Amann
Stephanie & David Beach
David Bonaccorsi
Lucienne Bouvier
Kathy Bray
Mavis Brown
Suzanne Chan
Sarabjit Cheema
Ellen Culver
Annette Crosbie
Susan Gearhart

Susan Gearhart
Jean Holmes
Alice Johnson
Miriam Keller
Joanne Landers
Pat Lewis
Lynn Locher
Charlotte & John Lowrey
LWVFNUC Board
Anne Macleod
Lily Mei

Jane Mueller
Niles Pie
Olive Hyde
Elinor Smith
Jeffrey Spencer
Alex & Peter Starr
Kathy Steel-Sabo
Gail Venti
Holly & Barry Walter
Pauline Weaver
Richard Valle

Voter Service Is Where the Action Is!

By Andrea Schacter, Voter Service Vice President



Even-numbered years are when the excitement happens.

It's when citizens decide the direction of their cities and schools. It's when we get to choose who will take our

politics to the right or the left all the way up to the federal level. It's when the League gets to ask the questions and disseminate the information that informs voters, and that's a powerful position!

It starts with getting as many people registered to vote as possible, and that goes on every day of every year. We keep those affidavit boxes filled—29 of them. And at election time the boxes empty quickly. These steady League workers fan out every month to keep the numbers growing:

Thanks to Sets Amann, Ellen Culver, Barbara Friedrich, Jean Holmes, Pat Lewis, Marilyn Singer, and Alex Starr for their work for the last six months. Contact Andrea Schacter to join the crew and help with this important job.

Then come the forums and interviews and a hustle from our communications people, Kirti Reddy, Daria Wagganer, and Alex Starr, to get the messages out on Facebook, *The Voter*, Smart Voter, YouTube, Patch and every other PR platform to spread the word. It's an intense time as we work to get the messages out before the absentee ballots arrive in the mail. It's the time when our talented moderators really make the League look good, and it's an opportunity to expand your skills by becoming one of them. Join Pauline Weaver, Kathy Steele-Sabo,

Sam Neeman, Jane Mueller, Mary Miller, Ann Crosbie, David Fishbaugh, Andrea Schacter, Jeff Spencer, Syeda Inamdar, Bob Monkman, Alex Starr, Holly Walter, and Judy Zlatnik—our stellar cast of 2012 election moderators, and Marilyn Singer will put you on the path to stardom.

We strive to inform voters with unbiased information before they actually vote, and we do it in several languages. (If you have the expertise to do this, we need you to step up and speak up, as we would like to do more work in the communities that need information in languages other than English.. Syeda Inamdar helped us with the Afghan community, and we managed to work with the Asian-Pacific Islander community to produce a program in Mandarin. These programs were shared with other Leagues to give them “legs.”

The Voter Information Book has become a staple in the Tri-Cities every two years, and Jean Holmes, John Smith, Sets Amann, Isabelle McAndrews, Gus Morrison and Marilyn Singer will need some assistance in 2014 to get this professional election material to press and into the hands of voters. It's an interesting and intense one-shot job that might just be what you are looking to do. Join the group for a great ride!

So, when you turn your calendar page and see 2014, you know it's time for LWVFNUC to really hustle and make a difference. You can be part of the action. We *need* you to part of the action. You'll **love** being part of the action. Just say the word, and you'll be on the TEAM!

League Mourns the Loss of Pat Lane

By Carolyn Hedgecock, Co-President

Pat Lane, a very long-time member of our League, passed away in June. Pat was involved in so much of what I remember about League for more than 30 years. She was part of numerous yearly studies and presentations “back then,” when that was the way League operated.

Bringing Fremont Main Library into reality was a major passion of hers. In addition she was very

involved in environmental issues—Tri City Ecology, the local museum garden, animal rehabilitation, and saving the burrowing owl in open fields that were transformed.

Pat and her husband Stu had moved to Elk Grove a few years ago, but she continued her membership in our League.

ACTION

Taking Action on the Environment

There are two steps you can take right now to help protect our environment:

1) The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) must remain intact in the face of opposition from industry and developer interests. Show your support for CEQA by emailing or faxing a letter to your Assemblymember. Find sample text for your letter and talking points at the [LWVC website](http://www.lwvc.org).

2) Use the [e-mail template](http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/di) from LWVUS to thank Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Diane Feinstein for their work to cut carbon pollution from power plants. The template is customizable, so let them know that you appreciate their efforts and hope they'll work to increase support for the Obama Administration's plan.

<http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/di>

2013 Board Retreat Focuses on Strategy

The retreat was a great time for the new Board to get together, learn a little about each other, and focus on our strategy for the coming year. We had two breakout sessions, one on increasing participation in League activities and one on this year's general meetings. We also considered the Advice to the Board presented at our Annual Meeting, which was to print our membership handbook online, make the proposed program smaller, support a high school student's attendance at the LWVUS convention, and use the money raised from the Voter Information Booklet for Voter Service activities only, partially for Smart Voter Next Generation.

Since there is not an election until June 2014, we have time to experiment. You'll see some changes right away—some Saturday meetings and some informal "Hot Topics" during the day. The Action Committee is now the Action Group and open to all members—and don't worry, no action items if you attend casually! We are also focusing on improving our communications both to members and the community at-large.

<http://ca.lwv.org/act-now/alert/2013/jul/keep-ceqa-strong>



Sam Neeman, Andrea Schacter, Sets Amann, Kathy Bray, Kirti Reddy



Mary Miller, Peter Starr, Miriam Keller, Judy Keller, Carolyn Hedgecock

Agencies Adopt “Plan Bay Area” to Guide Regional Growth

From stories by the Bay Area Monitor and Linda Craig, LWVBA

After midnight at the end of a marathon joint meeting, beginning on July 18, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) approved Plan Bay Area, an integrated transportation and land-use strategy through 2040. This marks the nine-county region’s first regional plan that consolidates policies for transportation, housing and open space into one document. The Plan also meets the target of a 15 percent per-capita reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within the Bay Area by 2030, as required under SB375.

For decades, the LWV of the Bay Area has supported comprehensive planning of this sort for the region. The Plan focuses future regional growth within priority development areas (PDAs), which are neighborhoods within walking distance of frequent transit service. These areas are expected to accommodate 79 percent of new housing and 63 percent of new jobs by 2040. Because we particularly supported a plan that provided incentives for affordable housing and funding for transit, we were pleased that final amendments required a stronger emphasis for provision of local transit service, and linked local grant funding to performance in providing affordable housing together with anti-displacement measures. Some grant funding is also provided for open space protection.

This round of planning, which began three years ago, included varied opportunities for public participation, but also was marked by vocal opposition by Tea Party members and others who showed up en masse at hearings. (See also discussion of public participation in the latest Bay Area Monitor, <http://www.bayareamonitor.org>)

MTC and ABAG’s July 18 adoption of Plan Bay Area has put this region in compliance with California’s 2008 Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg) by establishing a Sustainable Communities Strategy for managing future population growth and decreasing vehicle greenhouse gas emissions.

Plan Bay Area also budgets transportation spending for the region through the year 2040, allocating \$292 billion in projected federal, state, and local sources. The two regional agencies jointly adopted the plan’s environmental impact report as well, while taking separate action on other related matters. The ABAG Executive Board approved the 2014-2022 Regional Housing Needs Allocation, assigning how many new housing units jurisdictions around the Bay Area must plan for over the next eight years. MTC approved the 2013 Transportation Improvement Program that revolves around a set of significant Bay Area transportation projects. The agency confirmed that both the Transportation Improvement Program and Plan Bay Area comply with federal air pollution standards when it also approved an air quality conformity analysis.

OUR LOCAL LEAGUE WORKS ON REGIONAL ISSUES

Our member Alex Starr is one of the area League members providing input to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. To read our letter on this issue, go to:

www.lwvfnuc.org/public/aa/Action_20130507.html

2012-13 Annual Report *By Miriam Keller, immediate past president*

General Meetings



Many members and others led by our Program V.P. helped put together this past year's general meetings. Look what they accomplished:

- September—we discussed Propositions 30 and 38 to help us decide how to vote.
- October—Sister Caritas Foster of the Holy Family Convent discussed Human Trafficking and what we could do to help.
- November—Alex Briscoe, director of Health Care in Alameda County, informed us of what was happening in Health Care and shared future planning.
- December—As always, we had our Holiday Party and Program Planning for LWVC January. Ohlone College President, Dr. Gari Browning, discussed the Student Success Initiative.
- February—We held a consensus meeting on the LWVC Initiative and Referendum study update.
- March—We were appalled by the documentary “The United States of Alec.” and also toured the Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland to visit graves of women who had been active in Women’s rights.
- April—County Administrator Susan Muranishi, discussed issues facing the County with the recent changes with realignment.
- May—General Manager Richard Currie discussed The Union Sanitary District.

One challenge we faced was low attendance at some of these meetings. Look for announcements for the coming year's meetings on our website, www.lwvfnc.org, on Facebook, and in e-mail.

Come to the meetings. Look what you have been missing!

Voter Service

This team worked overtime for last year's election. They produced 11 candidate forums on five nights in September. All were videoed and posted for viewing on our League website. We also co-sponsored with the library the Presidential and VP Debates with discussions afterward moderated by the League.

We received a grant from LWVC to produce the pros & cons for a DVD in Farsi. We reached out to other Leagues in the Bay Area for help with this. Many Leagues helped with research, writing, and actors. Susan Hough of Cupertino League had the pros & cons taped in English in Cupertino. The California Channel asked her to tape at their studios for broadcasting. Our team had the DVD translated into Farsi and Mandarin and videoed. It was an aggressive schedule for such a complex undertaking. We would have liked the rollout to be more effective, but we will use this experience to improve next time.

If that wasn't enough Voter Service also:

- kept affidavit registration boxes filled
- held voter registration drives at the Fremont Family Resource Center, Ohlone Community College, and Newark Memorial High School
- provided voter registration training for the Fremont Family Resource Center personnel and the Afghan Coalition personnel
- published and mailed Voter Information Booklets to residents of Fremont and Union City
- delivered at least seven pro/con talks
- had most of our local candidates provide information about themselves on the Smart

Continued on next page

Annual Report

Continued from previous page

Voter website, along with links to all of the candidate forums

- provided poll workers on Election Day
- updated our online version of Guide to Government
- updated Facts for Voters

AAUW Collaboration

Great Decisions—Every month AAUW (American Association of University Women) has a Great Decisions discussion on foreign policy. Any League member may attend.

Committees Action

- Continued to study transportation, housing and finance issues
- Continued to oversee the Observer corps who observe many public agencies
- Interviewed Assemblyman Bob Wieckowski, State Senator Mike Honda, New Haven Unified School District (NHUSD) board member Michael Ritchie Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle.
- Requested a member to provide Brown Act Training to Newark City Council and Fremont Unified School District committees. We thanked him with a year's free membership in the League.

Two of our members are on the Bay Area League Transportation Committee. They provide information on regional transportation issues by including articles from the *Bay Area Monitor* in our *Voter*.

Education Committee

Studied the Common Core Standards, the Governor's Local Funding Formula and the Community College Student Success Initiative.

HOA Committee

This group conducted three Homeowners Association elections. They are responsible for validating the elections.

Communications

This year the team experimented with new ways to get information out to the membership and public. We have little luck in getting information into the *Argus*.

- Event notices were published on the *Newark, Fremont and Union City Patch* websites, the *Fremont Bulletin*, and the *Tri-City Voice*.
- Weekly ads were placed in the *Tri-City Voice* to call attention to our website.
- We had a display in the children's section of the library during the month of February.
- We agreed with AAUW to publicize each other's main monthly event on our e-tree distribution lists for e-mail.
- We made a presentation about the importance of transparency at each public agency in our area in March during Sunshine Week.
- Our webmaster kept our website up to date.
- We launched our local LWV Facebook page—www.facebook.com/LWVFNUC. "Like" us now!

In other local developments...

- We received a \$5500 legacy gift from Phyllis Merrifield.
- We purchased a sound system this year and a projector last year.
- The Board authorized our joining other Leagues in California to try to get our organization's tax status changed from 501(c)4 to 501(c)3.

We worked hard and accomplished much. There is more to do and we could use your help in the coming year.

CALENDAR

Aug. 15	Action Group	12 Noon at League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Aug. 19	Board Meeting	6:45 P.M. at League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Aug. 24	Women's Equality Day Celebration	Look for e-tree notification of time and place
Sept. 16	Board Meeting (Third Monday each month)	6:45 P.M. at League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Sept. 19	Action Group (Third Thursday each month)	12 Noon at League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Sept. 21	“Obama Care” Hot Topics discussion <i>Co-sponsored with Alameda County Library</i>	10:00 A.M. at Fremont Main Library 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont

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 _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

*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
Donation to LWVFNUC

\$ _____

Donation to Ed. Fund (*Make
separate check payable to
LWVFNUC Ed Fund*)

\$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____