

Voter

*The League of Women Voters
Of Fremont, Newark and
Union City*



December, 2004

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Monday, December 13
At Pauline Weaver's home
38890 Altura Street
Fremont

Please bring your most fabulous hors d'oeuvre
for a potluck

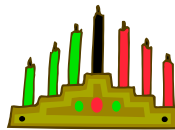
Be ready to voice your ideas about Program Planning after the food is consumed and the usual weird and un socially acceptable game is played. The committee is thinking, thinking about what the fantastic prizes will be. Dress is casual. Any Weekender's outfit is bound to fit right in. You may wear your feather boa if you are really into the holiday spirit.

MERRY



Christmas

HAPPY



Kwanzaa

HAPPY



Hanukah

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a very busy season of registering voters and presenting Pros and Cons I am ready for a constitutional amendment to make presidential elections last only 6 weeks. I think this one lasted 6 years. We filled many speaker requests and some from new groups seeking assistance understanding the election issues. We taped our first ever candidate forum at Ohlone and the usual number of others at Comcast. We used many different moderators for forums. Miriam and Letha kept all candidates 'on time' and others contributed their time and talent in many ways. A small cadre volunteered to monitor election coverage on KNTV for the media watch project. And our Candidate Information Booklet went out to thousands within Fremont.

Our next goals are threefold. First, we are behind in our annual quest to renew members. We need to reach that magical 100 number by the end of 2004 to be able to send 2 delegates to the LWVC convention in May. So, now is the time for all good members to pitch in and help us with this. Second, by the time you will read this we will have had our two consensus meetings on Education Policy update. This is policy wonk heaven for Leaguers. The education committee made a heroic effort to keep us from overworking. We had a grand time both evenings talking policy.

Third, we need to start to prepare to oversee the Sikh temple election on January 9th and 10th. We may need to recruit a few extra Leaguers from neighboring Leagues in order to fill all the slots. There will be over 8,000 approved voters who will be voting in one day with ballot counting the following day. I have already let some other Leagues know of a possible request for help and they are willing to assist. So clear your calendar for the dates of January 9th and 10th. We have asked for a contribution for our League and will share it accordingly with any League that helps us out.

Lastly, the energy policy update will begin in early 2005. The state League has already sent us material that you have carefully read in previous Voters, right? Look for more details soon. And finally, the Nominating Committee has started its quest for new board members. Why not save them the trouble of calling you? Volunteer now for the next board!!!

BOARD BRIEFS

- Changed board meetings to second Wed. of month – except for December. which will be December 15th.
- Divided up fact checking task for new Facts for Voters.
- Post cards reminders for membership renewal to be sent by board members.
- Decided to invite all new members to Dec. board meeting/pot luck.
- Heard that Democracy Dinner hotel site almost nailed down.
- Received great report from Voter Service about lots of forums & Pro/Con speaking engagements, plus distribution of Candidate Information Booklet.
- Will be gearing up for Sikh temple election on January 9th and 10th. Will need lots of volunteers.

VOTER SERVICE

On behalf of LWVFNUC, we wish to thank our talented, energetic and giving members and non-members (Monika Casterlin and Pat Hockina) for participating in the 2004 election. Ten candidate forums were done over six evenings

Voter registration was accomplished on 22 days in ten different locations. The distribution of Pros and Cons kept members busy as requests for additional affidavits were many at our busiest sites.

Letters to the Editor were written by Action Committee members. Local pros and cons regarding the Fremont Utilities Users Tax (Measure V), the Washington Township Health District (Measure FF) and the BART Earthquake Safety Bond related the arguments.

Vesta Wilson and Miriam Keller, our Smart Voter coordinators, were busy approving what candidates entered and bugging candidates who had not yet entered their information.

Miriam Keller shared her knowledge of the bond issues and propositions by speaking to NARFE, Book Talk, Women of St Joseph's, Connections Club of the Chamber of Commerce and the Hayward Retirement Home. Alex Starr spoke on the same subjects at Sunrise Rotary, Seniors of Temple Beth Torah, Tri-City Women's Club, and Women in Business. Julice Winter spoke at the Lutheran Congregational Church. Marilyn Singer shared her knowledge of local and state issues with the Niles Congregational Church. In addition, Marilyn must be commended for a project well done providing non-partisan information to educate the public regarding the Fremont local election.

A quote from one of our candidates: "Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your forums. The League ran the debate in a fair, professional and impartial manner. You do a great service to the voters with your online information and video broadcasting. The League provides the information and motivation to engage our citizenry in the political process."

—Ellen Culver and Letha Saldanha
Co-directors, Voter Service

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In November, the Education Committee presented 2 Consensus Meetings to update (or not) the State Positions on Education. Background was presented by Miriam Keller, Ken Ballard, Ann Crosbie and Vesta Wilson. Education in California is very complicated; the study package was large and members studied long and hard. Ann facilitated the meetings. Discussion at both meetings was lively and difficult to keep on track. But consensus was reached on half the questions in the first meeting and the other half in the second meeting. The consensus questions appeared in the October Voter.

When the State League puts it all together and it is ac-

cepted by the State League Convention, you will get a report in the *Voter*.

LWV CONVENTION, 2005

LWVC conventions are a place to learn, network, renew acquaintances, lobby, and even to have some fun. The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Orange County is an excellent setting for the convention that is affordable and very comfortable. Local Leagues and their members are urged to mark their calendars and make budget arrangements now so that they can send their full complement of delegates to this exciting League "get-together." Help make the major decisions that affect you and your League.

"It's A New World" is the theme selected by the convention planning committee to showcase the changes that League must embrace. The Orange County Leagues are working to make this a memorable convention that is affordable for all. Mary Evelyn Bryden and Joan Riddle, co-chairs, are working closely with area Leagues to insure that the rich diversity of the Orange County area is reflected in the program and entertainment. A gala fundraising event is being planned to open the convention on Friday evening, under the capable leadership of Kay Bruce of LWV Orange Coast. The gala will give League members an opportunity to personally thank contributors. The plenary sessions and workshops, seasoned with featured speakers, promise to be thought-provoking to all who attend. Registration kits will be mailed in January with full details about the programs and procedures for making reservations. We hope that every League will be represented at this important state meeting.

SMART VOTER

Our Fremont, Newark and Union City League is responsible for convincing the candidates who are on our ballot to put their information on the Smart Voter web site. We were moderately successful. Fulghum and Walker on the Fremont Council ballot, two AC transit challengers, Cliff Williams, running for Assembly District 20, Ohlone Board member Nick Nardillo and FUSD Board member Peggy Herndon did not attempt or didn't find the time to use our free web site to communicate with the voters. 81% of candidates participated.

Did you know that the Smart Voter site tells you the number of votes and the percentage of votes each candidate receives? You don't have to wait for the newspapers to be delivered. Just log on to Smart Voter. It also recorded that 69.2% of the eligible voters in Alameda County voted compared with 66.3% in the State.

If you didn't use Smart Voter to help you decide who to vote for, plan to do so for the next election.

—Miriam Keller



League of Women Voters California

Democracy Dinner

Don't be left out!

This is your opportunity to show the rest of California the best that your area has to offer—by donating an auction item to the LWVC Democracy Dinner, Spring 2005.

We are asking each CA League to donate at least one item for auction that shows off something unique or special about their home town—a weekend getaway, a case of wine, dinner for four, a day at the spa—let your imagination go wild! The only restrictions are that your item must not take up more than an 8.5 x 11 area on our display tables. Item too big? Consider displaying a picture. A description of your auction item and estimated value must be submitted to Ann Crosbie (LWV Fremont, Newark, Union City) no later than one month prior to the event. We prefer that items be delivered to the hotel the night of the event by an attendee from your League (so that storage does not become an issue); however, if you need to mail your auction item prior to the event contact Ann Crosbie for further information: crosbieclan@comcast.net or 510-657-3422

Thank you in advance for making the Democracy Dinner a huge success!

GOVERNMENT REVIEW PROCESS BEGINS

The opening round of Governor Schwarzenegger's push to "fix" California government got underway with release of the California Performance Review (CPR), a massive report containing more than a thousand recommendations. They range from minor items such as making the state's Web site more user-friendly to a major reorganization of state departments and programs into 11 "mega-agencies."

A commission appointed by the governor has held seven hearings to receive public comment on the report, the last one on September 27. The hearings have been crowded and often contentious, with much of the criticism aimed not only at the proposals but also at the process. Critics noted that the hearings began almost immediately after release of the report and were held over about a six week period, allowing little time for study and comment on the proposals.

The CPR's aim is to make government more efficient and effective, with a heavy emphasis on reducing costs and maximizing revenues without raising taxes. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) says, however, that even if the recommendations were implemented, they would not come close to solving the state's structural deficit, and that the state would "continue to face hard choices regarding program funding levels and taxes in order to balance its future budgets."

Part of the problem is that the report appears to have grossly overestimated savings and revenues and underestimated implementation costs. The CPR claims its proposals would produce savings of \$1 billion in 2004-05 and \$32 billion over the next five years, but the LAO says a "more realistic" assumption would be less than half that. For example, the CPR expects an added \$8.2 billion in federal grants for state programs despite the fact that Washington is drowning in red ink itself and has shown no sign that it would rework federal funding formulas in California's favor.

The CPR projects \$2.7 billion in savings attributed to a proposal to delay enrollment of children in kindergarten by a few months, mainly by reducing the Proposition 98 minimum funding guarantee. This not only represents a policy decision that may be unpopular, but the savings could be whittled

down by implementation costs, such as funding for more child care slots.



Although the report calls for adopting principles intended to improve the relationship between the state and local governments, some proposals not only run contrary to that goal, but appear to conflict with both present law and Proposition 1A on the November ballot, which is supported by the governor. These include shifting property taxes from some special districts to benefit the state and shifting responsibility for some state highways to local governments without an accompanying source of revenue. This would appear to conflict even with present law on reimbursement for state mandates, let alone the stricter requirements of Prop 1A.

The report also calls for vehicle owners to register their vehicles every two years, instead of each year, and calculates that implementing the change over two years would produce a one-time Vehicle License Fee (VLF) "windfall" to the state of about \$1.3 billion because half the car owners would be paying two year's worth of fees in the first year. This would, however, require a constitutional change, since VLF revenues are guaranteed to be distributed to local government, and would also probably run afoul of Prop 1A.

There are, of course, a number of proposals that are not controversial and might be adopted quickly and others that at least deserve serious consideration. Still others, such as the "mega-agencies reorganization" and the elimination of numerous boards and commissions, raise questions beyond the scope of State and Local Finances, but must be addressed.

Many organizations, including the League, have questioned whether there has been time even for organizations, let alone the general public, to learn about the proposals and comment intelligently on them. We will advocate for a process adequate to address the issues and will be submitting comments to the commission and passing along information to you as the process goes forward.

At Convention 2003, delegates adopted a resolution calling on the LWVC board to look at League positions and the current trend toward the privatization of water utility functions.

It is important at the outset to note that there are a number of ways in which a water utility function can be privatized. It is possible to identify a range of privatization possibilities. If we start with the notion that a water system is fully in the public sector, one can imagine the following possibilities:

1. Parts of the public system are outsourced to the private sector (e.g., laboratory work, meter reading).
2. The public entity (say a city) contracts with the private sector to operate and maintain the water utility facility, but the city stills owns the waterworks.
3. The public entity might arrange with a private firm for the design, construction, and operation of any new facilities.
4. "Outright sale of water utility assets to a private company."

LWVC water positions at present do not directly address the question of privatization of water utility functions. However, these positions do allow us to develop some criteria for assessing any proposal for privatization.

POSITION IN BRIEF: *Support measures which promote the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use.*

To assure the future availability of essential resources, government policies must promote stewardship of natural resources. The League believes that protection and management of natural resources are responsibilities shared by all levels of government.

WE'VE COME A LONG, LONG WAY

The following is an excerpt from the July 1943 issue of *Transportation Magazine*. This was serious, and written for male supervisors of women in the work force during World War II - a mere 58 years ago!

Eleven Tips on Getting More Efficiency Out of Women Employees:

There's no longer any question whether transit companies should hire women for jobs formerly held by men. The draft and manpower shortage has settled that point. The important things now are to select the most efficient women available and how to use them to the best advantage. Here are eleven helpful tips on the subject from Western Properties:

1. Pick young married women. They usually have more of a sense of responsibility than their unmarried sisters, they're less likely to be flirtatious, they need the work or they wouldn't be doing it, they still have the pep and interest to work hard and to deal with the public efficiently.
2. When you have to use older women, try to get ones who have worked outside the home at some time in their lives. Older women who have never contacted the public have a hard time adapting themselves and are inclined to be cantankerous and fussy. It's always well to impress upon older women the importance of friendliness and courtesy.
3. General experience indicates that "husky" girls - those who are just a little on the heavy side - are more even tempered and efficient than their underweight sisters.
4. Retain a physician to give each woman you hire a special physical examination - one covering female conditions. This step not only protects the property against the possibilities of lawsuit, but reveals whether the employee-to-be has any female weaknesses which would make her mentally or physically unfit for the job.
5. Stress at the outset the importance of time; the fact that a minute or two lost here and there makes serious inroads on schedules. Until this point is gotten across, service is likely to be slowed up.
6. Give the female employee a definite day-long schedule of duties so that they'll keep busy without bothering the management for instructions every few minutes. Numerous properties say that women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them, but that they lack initiative in finding work themselves.
7. Whenever possible, let the inside employee change from one job to another at some time during the day. Women are inclined to be less nervous and happier with change.
8. Give every girl an adequate number of rest periods during the day.. You have to make some allowances for feminine psychology. A girl has more confidence and is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidied, apply fresh lipstick and wash her hands several times a day.
9. Be tactful when issuing instructions or in making criticisms. Women are often sensitive; they can't shrug off harsh words the way men do. Never ridicule a woman - it breaks her spirit and cuts off her efficiency.
10. Be reasonably considerate about using strong language around women....Even though a girl's husband or father may swear vociferously, she'll grow to dislike a place of business where she hears too much of this.
11. Get enough size variety in operator's uniforms so that each girl can have a proper fit. This point can't be stressed too much in keeping women happy.

It's easy to JOIN the **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS****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**

Annual dues includes membership in Local, Bay Area, California and National Leagues.

Make your check payable to: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS and mail it with this form to:

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

_____ Individual Membership - \$50 _____ Household - \$75
 Donate to LWVNUC _____ Donate to Ed. Fund _____ Total enclosed \$ _____
 Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
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 New Member _____
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Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to L.W.V. Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, or for confidential financial dues assistance, please contact: Ann Crosbie: 510-657-3422, crosbieclan@comcast.net. 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's diversity.

LWVFNUC Voter
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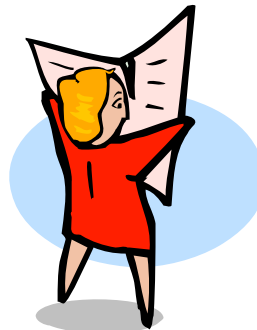
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ELECTRONIC CORNER**GRADE THE NEWS:**

Bay Area newspapers and television stations more than doubled their coverage of political campaigns leading up to the November 2 elections, compared with California's March election. But broadcasters in particular still fell significantly short of goals proposed by high profile groups of media reformers, who this year challenged TV newsrooms to provide at least two hours a week of prime-time, issue-centered reporting designed to help voters make informed choices. For more information, log on to <http://www.gradethenews.org>.

Commentary: Although U.S. Marines were storming Falluja and the northern 2/3 of Iraq was aflame with insurrection, the San Jose Mercury News spent the top of its front page on both Saturday and Sunday on the fate of one man from Modesto.

A QUOTE FROM SYEDA R. YUNUS:

"I wanted to forward the latest from Grade the News which has the results of the media study that we participated in. I am truly proud to belong to an organization such as our League that stepped forward to render a much needed service in the preservation of democracy."

—Compiled by Vesta Wilson

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a non-partisan 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

QUOTE

"Only free peoples can hold their purpose and their honor steady to a common end, and prefer the interests of mankind to any narrow interest of their own."—Woodrow Wilson, War Address to Congress, 1917



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VOTERS OF FREMONT,
NEWARK AND UNION CITY**
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WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Watch Pauline Weaver interview Donald Blevins, Alameda County Chief Probation Officer.

Fremont, Channel 29, every Wednesday at 7:30 PM

Newark, Channel 6, every Thursday at 7 PM

Union City, Channel 15, every Thursday at 9:30 PM

Hayward, Channel 28, every Monday at 9:30 PM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[Http://www.lwvfnuc.org](http://www.lwvfnuc.org)

Peter Starr, Webmaster,

Jack Keller, Back-up

CALENDAR

Mon., Dec 13	Holiday Party and Program Planning	6:30 PM	Pauline Weaver's home
Tue., Dec. 14	Action Committee	11:30 pm	TBA
Wed., Dec. 15	Cable Taping	2:30 PM	Comcast Studios
Wed., Dec. 15	LWVFNUC Board & Holiday Party	7:00 PM	Mary Miller's Home
Jan. 9th and 10th	Sikh Election—Save the dates.		TBA
Mon., January 24	Unit Meeting—Joint Meeting with Tri-City Ecology	7:00 PM	Golden Peacock Restaurant