



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

VOTER



**FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY**

**DECEMBER 2014**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bay Area League Day**

**January 31, 2015**

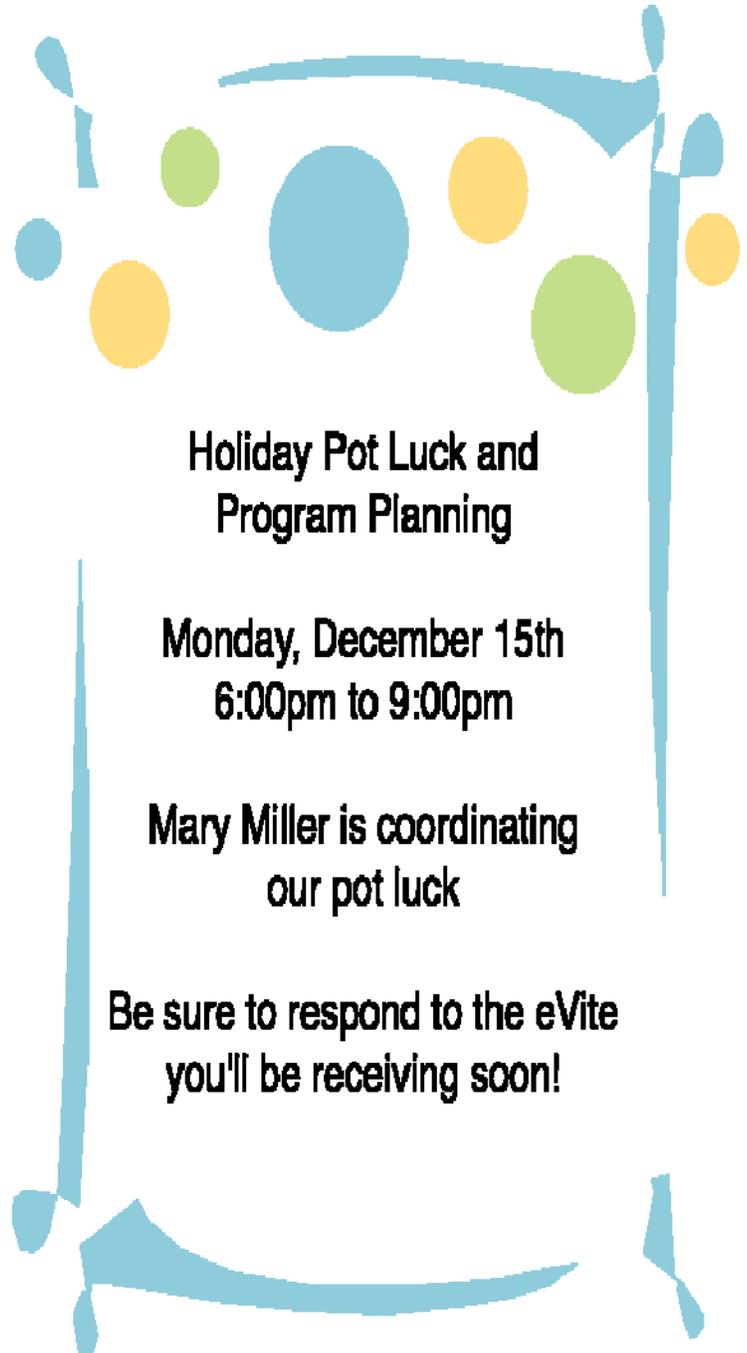
**Registration & Refreshments  
9:00 to 9:30**

**Program 9:30 – 2:30  
MetroCenter Auditorium  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA**

**Addressing Climate Change  
In the Bay Area**

Registration available online at:  
<http://lwvbayarea.org/calendar.html>

***We will pay member's  
early \$20 registration fee.***



**Holiday Pot Luck and  
Program Planning**

**Monday, December 15th  
6:00pm to 9:00pm**

**Mary Miller is coordinating  
our pot luck**

**Be sure to respond to the eVite  
you'll be receiving soon!**

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



### PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We hope you enjoyed our General Meeting in November on the impact of the drought on our water systems. Keeping with tradition our December meeting on Monday, December 15th is our Holiday Pot Luck and Program Planning at Marilyn Singer's home. Mary Miller is coordinating the Pot Luck so please contact her at <mailto:mmiller1948@gmail.com> to see what you can bring. Dinner at the Singer's is always a treat. Please respond to the eVite so we get an accurate count.

Why do Program Planning in December? First a little background, Program Planning consists of issues chosen for study and action at all levels of the League. At the 2014 National Convention the delegates approved a U.S. Constitution Amendment & Money in Politics. National just formed the committee. Read more about this on page 4.

The LWV California Convention is May 15 - 17 in San Diego. It is during this time motions for studies or updates to LWVC Positions will be considered and voted upon by delegates. Our Board considers member recommendations for local studies in March to submit to the membership at our Annual Meeting. So if there is some position you would like to see studied or updated at either the local or state level, this is the time to bring it forward.

LWVFNUC positions are in the Membership Handbook and on our web site at:

<http://www.lwvfnuc.org/public/localpositions.pdf>

LWV California positions are at:

<http://lwvc.org/issues/lwvc-positions>

It may seem as if we have a lot of positions and we do. We rarely remove positions as they are the basis for any action we take. And, just a reminder if you want to influence Action we take, join the Action Group led by Alex Starr.

Carolyn Hedgecock and Sam Neeman

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

Co-Presidents	Sam Neeman Carolyn Hedgecock <a href="mailto:president@lwvfnuc.org">president@lwvfnuc.org</a>
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Editor Alex Starr

Layout Design: Jane Mueller, Well Chosen Words

## **FROM LWVUS**

At the 2014 LWVUS convention two new committees were approved to address **Money in Politics** and **Constitutional Amendment**. These two committees join the already established **Redistricting Task Force**. For the next two years these two committees and the task force will focus on the Key Structure of Democracy.

### **LWV Money in Politics Committee Announced**

The 2014-2016 [League Program](#) on Key Structures of Democracy includes a review and update of the LWVUS campaign finance position. The Committee includes Barbara Zia, Chair (LWVUS Board), Jeanne Brown (CA), Amy Fitzgerald (TN), Xandra Kayden (CA), Jeanne Logsdon (NM), Corlette Moore McCoy (MA), Susan Murnane (OH), George Schuhmann (KY), Lonni Skrentner, (MN), and Launa Zimmaro (MA). LWVUS Board member Peggy Appler and Senior Lobbyist Betsy Lawson will provide support to the committee. The Committee will provide educational materials and activities to inform members and citizenry about complex issues around money in politics. The Committee will conduct an update of the League's position on campaign finance for the purpose of addressing the lack of member understanding

and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The campaign finance position will be updated through a study and consensus process to consider: (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position.

**LWV Constitutional Amendment Committee Announced** ¶ The 2014-2016 [League Program](#) on Key Structures of Democracy includes a study the process of amending the U.S. Constitution. Committee members of the new Constitutional Amendment Committee include Patricia Donath, Chair (LWVUS Board), Linda Powers Bilanchone (SC), Shamira Gelbman (IN), Ann Luther (ME), Monica Marquez (CA) and Ann Mostoller (TN). LWVUS Board member Anne Schink and Sr. Director of Advocacy Lloyd Leonard will provide support to the committee. The committee will study the process by which the U.S. Constitution can be amended, including the constitutional convention method, and identifying the gaps and challenges in those methods.

### **Looking for a way to shave a little off your tax bill this year?**

Don't forget our League is now a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Any donation you care to make is tax deductible as are your dues.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NON-MEMBERS**

**The VOTER will no longer be mailed to you through the U.S. Post Office. Keep getting our news and invitations to League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City meetings and events by signing up to receive our eVoter at:**

<http://www.lwvfnc.org/public/GoPaperless.shtml>.

**Please provide the address shown on this newsletter's address label.**

## PROGRAM PLANNING – OUR DECEMBER MEETING

**To reach [the League’s aim], study is not enough, becoming experts is not enough. Good citizenship requires not only knowledge but ability to act.**

**- Marguerite Wells, President, League of Women Voters 1934-44**

Program Planning. In the League, this is the process by which we help decide where and how we will focus our resources – member time, money, and reputation – over the coming two years. We are a grassroots organization. Program planning is one of the ways for all of us to participate in a meaningful way to make our voices heard.

Leagues at all levels take action. Our advocacy can include writing letters to media or legislators, holding press conferences, speaking at hearings and public meetings, adding our voice to a ballot measure campaign or sending action alerts to our members. Taking action is always based on current program positions and/or on League Principles. Positions are developed based on member study and consensus. We have many positions, and many opportunities to act, so how does the League of Women Voters of California board determine when to take action on state legislation and statewide ballot measures, and on which items?

### **League Priorities**

The LWVC has a series of priorities: the Issues for Education and Advocacy set every two years at the LWVC convention, the legislative priorities set for each legislative session by the board, and the core issues of the League that include redistricting, elections, initiative and referendum process, voting rights, campaign finance reform and reproductive choices.

### **Requests for Action**

Recommendations and requests for action on issues—bills before the legislature, potential ballot measures—come from a variety of sources. Local Leagues or League members can request that the LWVC look at a potential piece of legislation for action, or the League may be asked by the author of a bill for the League’s endorsement. Other groups working in a particular area can ask that the League join them in endorsing a bill or ballot measure. Or, most commonly, we simply are following legislation in a particular area closely and find something that we want to address.

### **Analysis: How Does It Fit with League Positions?**

These requests are first sent to the off-board Program Director and/or Legislative Consultant responsible for the issue area for analysis. Off-board Program Directors and Legislative Consultants are experts on League positions and previous League action on the positions in a particular area, and do analysis of bills and ballot measures with recommendations about potential League action. They watch legislation in their area of expertise, and they frequently are the ones that draft the letters and testimony in their issue area.

The Legislative Consultants write analyses of the measure under consideration, including a summary of the measure and how it changes current law, a summary of the related League positions, and how the League positions apply to the measure. They also give recommendations about supporting or opposing the measure and indicate how important they feel it is within their area. The Program Directors may add their comments and recommendations, including information about previous League action on similar measures.

### **Legislation Committee**

The LWVC Legislation Committee, made up of the LWVC President, VP for Advocacy and Program, all program directors from the LWVC

board, and two off-board members review recommendations for action on legislation and ballot measures. The Legislation Committee can take action for the LWVC on bills, and makes recommendations to the whole LWVC board for action on ballot measures. Whenever action is taken, that is reported to the board and the membership. Members can find a record of League action in the [Bill Status Report](#) and on our Web site, <http://lwvc.org>.

Some of the criteria that the Legislation Committee and the board use in determining whether to take action on a particular issue are:

- League positions, including previous League action
- What does the League's voice add to the debate on this?
- What will happen if the League does not speak?

Frequently, the League has multiple positions covering a single measure, and the Legislation Committee must balance these positions together – and sometimes against each other. At other times, the League supports a part of a measure, but doesn't like another part, so we must weigh the importance of the supported portion against that of the non-supported portion. All of these factors weigh in the Legislative Committee and the board discussions.

For ballot measures, we also consider what else is on the ballot for that election. That element of the decision process for ballot measures doesn't so much affect whether or not we will take a position but rather when we might take a position and how strongly we will be involved in a campaign.

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## LWVC Higher Education Study

The refined scope of the study is: “*A study examining access to quality public higher education in California including funding, affordability, preparedness, equity, and opportunities and barriers to success.*”

Two dates of interest to local Leagues for planning:

- Study kit to local Leagues: August 2015
- Consensus due: April 2016

## 2015 LWVC CONVENTION IN SAN DIEGO: MARK YOUR CALENDARS - May 15-17, 2015

The 2015 League Convention will be at the glamorous and well-located Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter Hotel from Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17. Mark your calendar now, and let others know about the dates. There will be some great pre-convention activities including an exciting and informative **border tour** on **Thursday, May 14**.

The tour will focus on immigration with a panel presentation, lunch across the border, and some time in Tijuana. on Thursday, May 14.

## 2015 State Convention - Silent Auction Items Needed!

Silent auctions are suspenseful and the better the items, the more suspenseful they get. We'd like to make our Silent Auction at the 2015 State Convention a real nail-biter! But we need your donations of sought-after items to pull it off. Remember, proceeds go to support all the important work we do.

Do you own time at a vacation home, fine art, or a really special piece of jewelry? Are you a member of a wine club? Help us gather silent auction items that would cause bidders to keep checking back until the winner is announced.

Your donation will make LWVC Convention a sure winner. Please contact Lottie Fox about your valuable donation.**on**.

# 2015 Bay Area League Day

Saturday, January 31, 2015

9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Registration and refreshments: 9:00 – 9:30 AM

MetroCenter Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607

## Addressing Climate Change in the Bay Area

Bay Area League Day 2015

January 31, 2015



Speakers and panels will address Bay Area wide impacts of climate change, and regional actions and policies that can mitigate. In particular, we will look at strategies and measurements to reduce GhG reduction goals currently in place, and onto 2050; issues of adapting to sea level rise, and then how to achieve climate justice for those who might be most affected.

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**REGISTRATION :**

Send check payable to LWVBA by **Friday, January 23rd** to LWVBA, **Attn: Bay Area League Day**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL LEAGUE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE USING PAYPAL AFTER DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>. THE COST IS \$35 PREPAID (\$20 WITHOUT LUNCH) AND \$40(\$25 WITHOUT LUNCH) AT THE DOOR. THE DEADLINE FOR PREPAID REGISTRATION WILL BE FRIDAY, JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>. IF REGISTERING BY MAIL, PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LWVBA, ATTN: BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY AND MAIL TO 436 14<sup>TH</sup> ST, SUITE 1213, OAKLAND CA 94612. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL ALEC MACDONALD AT (510) 839-1608 OR [WWW.LWVBAYAREA.ORG](http://WWW.LWVBAYAREA.ORG)

Dec 11	Action Group Lunch	11:45 Location to be Announced
Dec 15	Holiday Pot Luck and Program Planning for members	6:00 PM at Marilyn Singer's Home

**SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015 9:30-2 PM  
BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY  
"CLIMATE CHANGE"**

**MTC AUDITORIUM, 101 EIGHTH STREET, OAKLAND**  
LWVFNUC WILL PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR MEMBERS WISHING TO ATTEND.  
MEMBERS PAY FOR THEIR OWN LUNCH OR BROWN BAG IT.  
THE MTC AUDITORIUM IS ADJACENT TO A B.A.R.T. STATION.

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LWFNUC  
P.O. Box 3218  
Fremont, CA. 94539