



The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, Union City

V O T E R

Voting

Democracy

Civic Engagement

It's time for a huge celebration

What:

The League of Women Voters 90th Birthday Party

When:

**Monday, February 15
From 6:30—9:00 pm**

Where:

**Niles Congregational Church
55 H Street**



What you can do:

Bring enthusiasm and excitement

Along with

Appetizer, salad or main dish

To share

**Call Martha Crowe or Andrea Schacter
To make your reservation**



President's Message

One of our hidden treasures is our Action Committee chaired by Andrea Schacter. Each committee member has a specific portfolio – Redevelopment and Housing, Finance, Transportation, etc. We watch for news, events within our area of interest and report back at our monthly meetings. Sometimes we elect to write testimony, sometimes we attend appointed committee meetings like the Health and Sex Education Advisory Committee of the Fremont Unified School District, sometimes we agree to interview an elected official or a newly appointed manager of a local agency providing services to our three cities. Often the discussion leads to quiet approach to make sure that democracy works within our local area or region. Many of our ideas for General Meetings come from these discussions. An example of action taken recently includes agreement to co-host the meeting on revision of the state Constitution at Ohlone-Newark with the mayors of our three cities. Another testimony that we presented was to Ohlone's Board of Trustees supporting the idea of eliminating the numbered seat system for electing their board members. Our cable program Voting Matters comes under the aegis of Action Committee. We are still waiting for all of the paperwork to be returned to Chabot College from local cities so that we can re-start taping programs. The observer corps is also a part of Action Committee. We always need more observers, in-person to attend meetings and also those who can watch proceedings from their home on cable and report back to us or sharing an observer job with another Leaguer. This is how we find out who is respecting our right to have open government, which agency is financially stable, how a certain agency fills a vacancy (we hope in a manner that is transparent).

If you are interested in participating in a small way in Action Committee please join us on the first Thursday every month at 12:30 at Kay Emanuele's home. Bring a bag lunch . Try us. You'll like us!!

Don't forget February 15th our potluck movie party to celebrate the League's 90th Birthday. Niles Congregational Church at 6:30 P.M.

Alex



Board Briefs

At the January 11 Board meeting, the Board

- Decided to decline the invitation to run an in-person Sikh temple election in early March. Not enough time to prepare.
- Accepted plans from development commitment for 90th anniversary fundraiser appeal.
- Discussed ideas for annual meeting speaker.
- Met membership renewal goals.
- Still waiting on paperwork to be completed at Chabot to re-start Voting Matters tapings.

HONOR THE LEAGUE

The **League** celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, and LWVFNUC is determined to make the most of our 90th year—as a tribute to all who have come before us in this distinguished organization.

Our 90th year will be one of our most important. Whatever happens in 2010 will impact the direction of our community for years to come.

We hope you will make a special contribution in observance of the League's birthday this year. Because it is the 90th anniversary, you might consider making it in the amount of \$90 or more. Your gift at this level will enable us to continue to be effective in accomplishing the critical work that lies ahead for LWVFNUC. Donors of \$90 and up during February will receive special recognition.

Since the beginning, when the League was created in 1920—just as women won the right to vote—League members promoted full participation of citizens in our democracy because they understood that's what it takes to build a strong democracy. Today, as League members, we walk in the footsteps of those early pioneers. Thanks to the work they started, the League has become one of the most influential organizations in America and around the world with nearly 850 local and state Leagues in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and more than 150,000 members and supporters.

When we think of what our suffragist sisters endured to secure our right to vote, it reminds us that we ourselves must do more to fight for the ideals we believe in. Please be as generous to the League as you can be when you make your gift this year.

You may make your contribution online by going to www.lwvfnuc.org and clicking the "Make a Donation" button.

To make your contribution by mail, please fill out the form below and enclose it with your check, addressed to:
League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City
P.O. Box 3218, Fremont, California 94539

**Enclosed is my contribution of: \$ _____
in honor of the League's 90th anniversary.**

Please direct my donation:

Where most needed

*Make check payable to: **LWVFNUC***

—or—

LWVFNUC Education Fund

*Make check payable to: **LWVFNUC Education Fund***

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

I would like to make this donation in honor of someone else:

Name of honoree: _____

Please enclose information about the occasion, who we should notify, and their contact information

Print clearly:

Name(s) _____

Company _____

Street Address _____

City _____

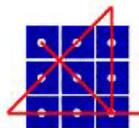
State _____ Zip _____

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Voter Sponsors

We'd like to acknowledge the following donors to the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City.



Well Chosen Words
Creative Marketing Communication
Jane Mueller, Owner
www.wellchosenwords.net

Dale Hardware
37100 Post St., Fremont
www.dale-hardware.com



We also extend our thanks to
Ellen Culver
Alex Starr
Bill Harrison & Jennifer Toy

The Three Mayors Forum

Monday January 25th the mayors of Fremont, Newark and Union City sponsored a forum on revision of the California Constitution. Our League co-hosted the event that was held at the beautiful Ohlone Newark campus. After thanking Ohlone College, Fremont City Clerk Dawn Abrahamson and Walter Garcia, Fremont 's tech genius, for their invaluable work in setting up the forum, Alex Starr introduced the two guest experts and the three mayors. Guest speakers Fred Silva from California Forward and Larry Stone from Repair California addressed the audience first and answered audience questions. The three mayors, Bob Wasserman, Dave Smith and Mark Green, followed with pertinent comments on how the state budget crisis affects their cities daily. Jane Mueller, League moderator, guided the mayors with questions about governance, possible solutions, and how their cities are coping with the constant budgetary challenges.

The audience of about 60 asked probing questions of Mr. Silva and Mr. Stone and the mayors. Whether the public votes next November for or against convening a constitutional convention or for or against several planned ballot measures, those who attended the forum are better prepared to sift through the issues.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE ON MEASURE B

Since 2002, when the reauthorized Measure B began collecting taxes, ACTIA (Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority) has worked closely with local agency partners to deliver 2/3 of the projects promised to the voters. To date, the Authority has completed seven projects totaling over \$187 million in Measure B funds: To name some – construction on the BART Warm Springs Extension Project, BART Oakland Airport Connector, Westgate Extension to Davis Street, E 14th Street (Hesperian/150Street Improvement), I-80 Integrated Corridor Mobility (The San Pablo Ave. Transit & Arterial Operations Improvement Project in Alameda & Contra Costa Counties).

At present, ACTIA is gearing up for reauthorization of sales tax measure to support greater transportation opportunities throughout the county.

Sets Amann

LWVFNUC Board

Officers

President

Alex Starr

apstarr@ix.netcom.com

Administrative Vice President

Jane Mueller

jmueller@wellchosenwords.net

Program Vice President

Ken Ballard

ballardken@aol.com

Voter Service Vice Presidents

Marilyn Singer

singer756@sbcglobal.net

Sets Amann

setsamann@pacbell.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Carolyn Hedgecock

cphedgecock@hotmail.com

Directors

Action Committee Chair

Andrea Schacter

schacter@pacbell.net

Facilities/Special Events

John Landers

jolanders@sbcglobal.net

Historian

Martha Crowe

marthacrowe@sbcglobal.net

Membership Chair

Sarabjit Cheema

sarabjitkaurcheema@yahoo.com

Voter Editor

Miriam Keller

miriamkel@comcast.net

Web Master

Peter Starr

petstarr@ix.netcom.com



JANUARY 2010

SCHOOL FINANCE HIGHLIGHTS 2009-10

THE IMPACT OF THE FISCAL CRISIS ON CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In fall 2008, the nation faced a historic economic crisis. No state government in the country was as severely shaken as California, where years of budget troubles preceded the national crisis. The situation worsened throughout 2009, and state leaders repeatedly acted to balance the state budget. And because K-12 education represents the single largest state expenditure here, California's public schools were greatly affected.

Billions in funding cuts left many school districts reeling

Policymakers repeatedly cut funding for K-12 schools as part of their overall budget solution, affecting funding for both 2008-09 and 2009-10. Doing so allowed the state to realize savings in the current year, and more importantly, to minimize spending obligations going forward. As they did this, officials reduced Proposition 98 spending to a minimum in accounting terms but provided some funding beyond the minimum. On the other hand, to help address the state's cash flow problems, policymakers also delayed the release of some funds, which disrupted local agencies' own cash flow and ability to plan.

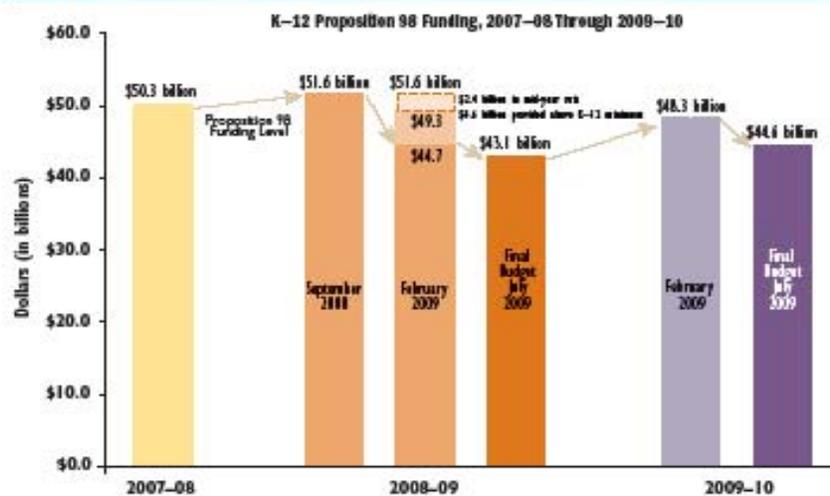
As Figure 1 shows, in 2007-08, the K-12 portion of Proposition 98 spending was \$50.3 billion. The initial 2008-09 budget increased that figure, but falling state revenues led policymakers to cut K-12 Proposition 98 spending to \$44.7 billion five months later. Even that level was unsustainable, and further cuts in July 2009 brought the amount to \$43.1 billion.

For 2009-10, the K-12 Proposition 98 funding level changed between the original February budget and the July revision. In February, the figure was estimated to rise to \$48.3 billion. However, between February

and July, state revenues continued to fall, which lowered the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee. Accordingly, the July budget provides about \$44.6 billion in K-12 Proposition 98 spending for 2009-10. (See Figure 1.)

To help local school agencies manage with less funding, state policymakers gave them substantial flexibility in how categorical funds are spent and in other areas, such as K-3 Class Size Reduction.

Figure 1 | State education funding fluctuated by billions within and between years



Note: Due to rounding, the numbers in the third bar do not add up to the total of \$51.6 billion.

Proposition 98 sets a minimum funding guarantee for education. The money included comes from local property taxes and state funds raised primarily through income and sales taxes. State lawmakers first adopted the Proposition 98 funding level for 2008-09 in September 2008 and then revised it in February and July 2009. Similarly, they first set the Proposition 98 level for 2009-10 in February 2009 and then adjusted it the following July. More adjustments for 2009-10 are possible.

DATA: LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE (LAO), CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE)

EdSource 1/10

EdSource® is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in California in 1977.

Independent and impartial, EdSource strives to advance the common good by developing and widely distributing trustworthy, useful information that clarifies complex K-14 education issues and promotes thoughtful decisions about California's public education system.

HIGHLIGHTS

Changes in federal funds helped backfill a portion of the state cuts

In a typical year, Proposition 98 accounts for about three-quarters of the total revenues for schools and some related programs, such as adult education and child care. Within that, the state General Fund portion makes up about 55% and local property taxes comprise about 20%.

In addition, federal funds generally make up about 10% of total K-12 revenues, with all of these funds earmarked for specific purposes, such as compensatory education

programs for disadvantaged students (Title I), Child Nutrition, and Special Education for those with disabilities. The past two budget years have been an exception to that, as the federal stimulus package enacted in February 2009 provided one-time funding totaling about \$3.8 billion in 2008-09 and \$2.3 billion in 2009-10. Although the largest portion of those funds was discretionary for school agencies, substantial reporting requirements are attached.

As Figure 2 indicates, the increase in total federal funding between 2007-08 and

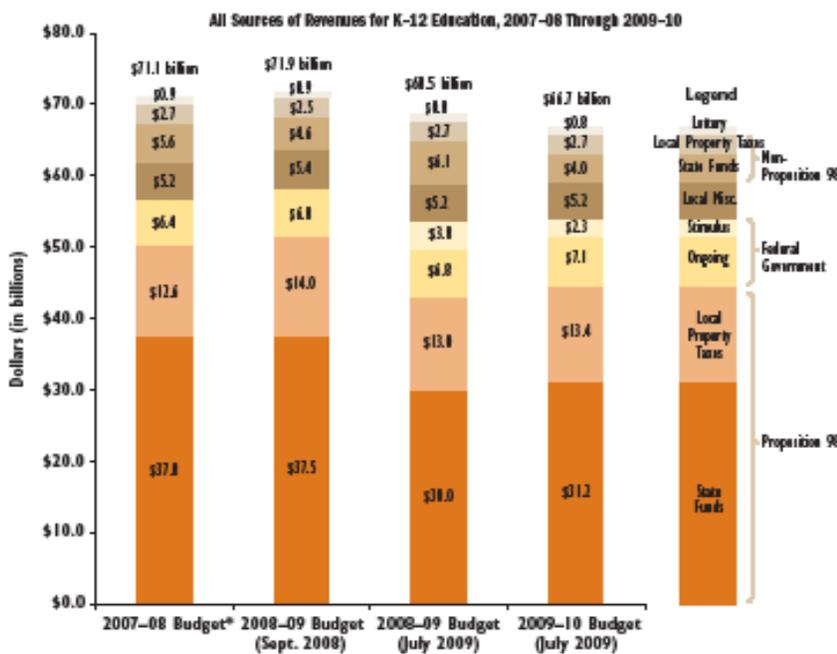
2009-10 was about \$3 billion. The net decrease in Proposition 98 funding for the same period was about \$5.7 billion. On balance, K-12 education saw a cut in funding from these combined state and federal sources of more than \$2.7 billion. That represents about \$470 per pupil (based on estimated 2009-10 average daily attendance or ADA of 5.9 million students). Other sources of revenues for schools also decreased by a total of \$1.7 billion. (See Figure 2.)

Will Californians accept continued cuts to their public schools?

During 2009, California's leaders used many tactics to keep state finances from completely falling apart, but the situation remains tenuous as 2010 begins. Forecasts project multi-billion dollar deficits for the next several years absent corrections, and local school agencies will need to build their preliminary 2010-11 budgets from the governor's upcoming budget proposal, which will doubtless reflect the bleak outlook.

Many education advocates are making a case that the resources for schools are already inadequate and further education cuts seriously imperil the state's future. Some are preparing legal challenges, while others are looking to the initiative process as a way to improve school funding. It remains to be seen whether the majority of Californians share their perspective and—even if they do—what is possible given the current state of the economy. [4]

Figure 2 | Even with increased federal support, total revenues decreased by \$4.4 billion since 2007-08



*These numbers reflect the updated estimates for 2007-08 rather than the 2007-08 budget as passed in August 2007.

Notes: Local miscellaneous sources include private donations, parcel tax revenues, interest income, etc.

The state counts non-Proposition 98 state and local funds as part of total education funding. The local portion is mostly debt service, and the state portion includes bond repayments and spending for state education agencies and programs.

The amounts include more than \$2 billion each year for services to school-age children outside regular K-12 school agencies and to individuals not part of the K-12 population but served by school agencies.

K-12 Proposition 98 average daily attendance (ADA) for 2009-10 is about 5.9 million, plus approximately 312,000 in adult education and 145,000 in regional occupational centers and programs (ROCPs).

DATA: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE), CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF), LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE (LAO) EdSource 1/30

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520 San Antonio Rd, Suite 200, Menlo Park, CA 94040-1217 ■ 650/917-9481 ■ Fax: 650/917-9482 ■ edsource@edsource.org
www.edsource.org ■ www.ed-data.k12.ca.us

This brief history of the League was edited from material on the LWVUS web site.
Alex Starr

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

Since the League had inherited its structure from the National American Women Suffrage Association, in 1920 it was a federation of affiliated state Leagues, most of which had been in existence as state headquarters of the NAWSA.

The first League program adopted in 1920 contained some 69 items grouped in broad subject areas: child welfare, education, the home and high prices, women in gainful occupations, public health and morals, and independent citizenship for married women! **The League's first major national legislative success was the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act providing federal aid for maternal and child care programs.**

The League organized institutes to study defects in our system of government, initiated "Know Your Town" surveys, candidate questionnaires and meetings, and nationwide get-out-the-vote campaigns activities. **In 1928 the League sponsored "Meet the Candidates," the first national radio broadcast of a candidate forum.** Voters service efforts remain a hallmark of the League's services to the electorate today and laid the foundation for the efforts that make up the League's education program - from candidate debates and candidate questionnaires produced by Leagues throughout the country, to the myriad projects funded through the League of Women Voters Education Fund, which was founded in 1957. (For more information, see the section titled, League of Women Voters Education Fund and Overseas Education Fund.)

The depression of the 1930s and the onset of World War II brought far-reaching change to the League. Membership fell, the National League's budget was cut in half, necessitating a major reduction in staff and services to Leagues. Perhaps the most important change was that because of gas rationing, League

members started meeting in small groups in their neighborhoods to discuss fundamental issues. Grass-roots activity thus was firmly institutionalized as a way of assessing concerns, studying and strategizing.

Issues:

League members worked successfully for enactment of the Social Security and Food and Drug Acts, as well as the TVA. In 1934, when federal and state government agencies were hiring thousands of employees to administer the new social and economic laws, the League launched a nationwide campaign in support of the merit system for selecting government personnel. In those years the League was the only national organization acting consistently for the merit system. And due, at least in part, to League efforts, legislation passed in 1938 and 1940 removed hundreds of federal jobs from the spoils system and placed them under Civil Service. **The 1944 convention made major changes in the basic structure of the League, proclaiming it an association of members, rather than a federation of state leagues, and abolishing the department system of managing the various facets of the League program.**

At the 1946 convention, the name was changed to the League of Women Voters of the United States, and the national program was considerably shortened.

Members joined the League of Women Voters of the United States by enrolling in local Leagues in their communities. **The local League became the basis of organization and representation in the League, while power was vested in the members.** It is in and through the local League that members determine, directly and indirectly, what the League does and how it does it. Members influence League decisions either personally or through representatives at state and national levels by electing leaders, determining how money will be spent through adoption of budgets, choosing program, participating in the member agreement process and by deciding the bylaws.

During the post World War II period, the League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations and to ensure U.S. participation. The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO); it still maintains official observer status today and has special consultative status to the Economic and

Social Council (ECOSOC). The League also supported the creation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as NATO, economic aid to less developed countries and the Marshall Plan.

The witch hunt period of the early fifties inspired the League to undertake a two-year community education program focusing on the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Next came an evaluation of the federal loyalty/security programs and ultimately a League position that strongly emphasized the protection of individual rights. **In 1955 League President Percy Maxim Lee testified before Congress against Senator Joseph McCarthy's abuse of congressional investigative powers. "I believe tolerance and respect for the opinions of others is being jeopardized by men and women whose instincts are worthily patriotic, but whose minds are apparently unwilling to accept the necessity for dissent within a democracy."**

Dating back to a 1920s study of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the League's concern about the depletion and conservation of natural resources was rekindled in the mid-1950s with a study of water resources.

In response to the growing civil rights crisis of the 1960s the League directed its energies to equality of opportunity and built a solid foundation of support for equal access to education, employment and housing. In 1969, the League was one of the first organizations calling for the United States to normalize relations with China.

The League also hosted an exchange with women from the USSR and the OEF Institutes for Latin American women were inaugurated.

The 1974 convention also amended the bylaws to allow men to join the League as full voting members.

In the early 1970s, the League addressed the issue of income assistance and also began its efforts to achieve a national Equal Rights Amendment, an effort that ultimately failed. The League also adopted a position on direct popular election of the President, on Congress, on the UN and on Campaign Finance. **And, in 1976, the League sponsored the first televised presidential debates since 1960, resulting in receiving an Emmy award.**

The League was in the forefront of the struggle to pass the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982 and contributed significantly to enactment of the historic Tax Reform Act of 1986.

It also adopted a position on fiscal policy and one on US Relations with Developing Countries. In the arms control

field, LWV pressure helped achieve Senate ratification of the groundbreaking Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) in 1988. In that same year the League also completed a study of U.S. agricultural policy. And through the Agenda for Security Projects in 1984, 1986 and 1988, the League underwrote some 150 debates focused on national security issues among congressional candidates. The League also sponsored Presidential Debates in 1980 and 1984, but withdrew as a sponsor of General Election debates in 1988. **In 1983 the League adopted a position on public policy on reproductive choice.**

The League launched "Take Back the System", a voter campaign to reclaim government and elections and sponsored a Presidential Primary Debate in 1992.

Members adopted a position on gun control in 1990 and Congress passed reauthorization of the Clean Air Act, capping a ten-year legislative campaign. The League also launched "Take Back the System", a voter campaign to reclaim government and elections and sponsored a Presidential Primary Debate in 1992. **In 1993, the League adopted a position on health care and won passage of the National Voter Registration Act, better known as Motor Voter.**

In the last years of the decade, the issue for emphasis, Making Democracy Work, included increasing voter turnout, campaign finance reform, civic education, diversity of representation, civic participation and voting representation for the residents of the District of Columbia. During that same period LWVEF activities included Running and Winning, a program that encouraged young women to consider careers as political leaders, as well as community dialogues on water resources, energy and health care.

Following the end of the Cold War, the League began several international programs: hosting emerging women leaders from Poland and Hungary; Strengthening Women's Rights in the NIS; Voices for Women – Forces for Change: Women's Leadership Workshops for Russia and Belarus; Voices for Women – Forces for Change: Building Peace in the Bosnian Community; a Bosnian Citizen Get-Out-The Vote Campaign; and Woman Power in Politics: Building Grassroots Democracy in Africa.

In 1998 the Democracy Network (DNet) was tested and then launched nationwide in January 2000. This Internet web site was a major effort to provide information regarding elections to citizens across the nation.

(continued on Page 10)

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: LWVFNUC and mail it with this form to:

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

Individual Membership—\$60

Household—\$90

Donate to LWVFNUC \$ _____ Donate to Ed. Fund \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name (s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____

TransferFrom _____

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to LWV Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, or for confidential financial dues assistance, please contact Sarabjit Cheema—sarabjitkaurcheema@yahoo.com

Mission Statement

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.

LWVFNUC Voter

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PO Box 3218
Fremont, CA 94539
510-794-5783

President: Alex Starr
Treasurer: Carolyn Hedgecock
Editor: Miriam Keller

The LWVFNUC office address is
3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA

NOTABLE WOMEN

IN HISTORY



While U. S. women were fighting for the right to vote, similar activities were occurring in Great Britain.

Muriel Matters was one of the first women to make a speech in the House of Commons. She managed this along with two other ladies, by chaining herself to the grille of the ladies gallery. The police were unable to unchain them, thus Muriel and her two companions gained enough time to make several speeches. Eventually, they were removed. The following year, she flew over Parliament in an airship inscribed "Votes for Women"

I already won my spurs by chaining myself to the grille of the ladies gallery in the House of Commons. As a result of this, I was intrusted with the aerial demonstration on the day of the opening of Parliament. That morning, I went to Hendon and met Mr. Henry Spencer who had his airship ready near the Welsh Harp. It was quite a little airship, 80 feet long, and written in large letters on the gas bag were three words, Voter for Women.

(Continued on page 10)

Notable Women in History continued

From this airship, she distributed flyers championing votes for women. After the vote was won, Muriel stood for election to Parliament as Labour candidate for Hastings, in the 1924 election. She was unsuccessful.

She died of pneumonia on November 17, 1969 and was buried at Hastings and was buried there on November 24.

Source: Wikipedia Submitted by Vesta Wilson

Brief History of the League continued from p. 8

A hallmark of the new century was the commitment on the part of the League to increased use of electronic communication to League leaders across the nation. A monthly electronic newsletter was begun and the League 's membership database became available electronically for direct updating by League membership chairs.

The League was instrumental in the enactment of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002. The League worked to renew the Voting Rights Act, and filed a number of amicus briefs relating to campaign finance reform issues, racial bias in jury selection and Title IX.

Beginning in 2004, the League focused its legislative work under a "Democracy Agenda" umbrella that included redistricting, civil liberties, campaign finance reform, voting rights for District of Columbia residents, election administration reform and ethics and lobbying reform.

The League continued its international work through several Global Democracy Programs that included working with women in Africa, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia.

In the late 1940s and 1950s, the League established two 501 (c) (3) educational organizations that, like the LWVUS, are nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, but, unlike the LWVUS, also can accept contributions that are deductible for income tax purposes.

While the League 's programs, priorities and procedures have changed over the years to meet changing times, a League pamphlet written in 1919 describes with remarkable accuracy its basic aims today: The organization has three purposes— to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms and to support needed legislation.

Thurs., Feb. 4	Action Committee	12:30 pm Brown Bag Lunch	Kay Emanuele 's home
Mon., Feb. 8	Board Meeting	6:45 pm	League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fre.
Sun., Feb. 14	League of Women Voters 90th Birthday		
Mon., Feb. 15	LWVFNUC Celebration League 90th Birthday Potluck	6:30 pm	Niles Congregation Ch. 255 H St. At 3rd & H Streets, Fre.
Mon., Feb. 25	Voter Deadline		
May 15-16	LWVC Council		Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza Sacramento
June 11-15	National Convention		Atlanta, Georgia 10