

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



V O T E R

Voting

Democracy

Civic Engagement



SPEAK UP CALIFORNIA

Monday, February 28

6:30 pm

Washington Hospital West
Conference Room

Our League is joining with other local organizations to participate as part of a statewide conversation sponsored by the **American Leadership Forum** and **California Forward** to discuss how we can change our state's Direction. Please come and let your voice be heard!

All Leaguers are invited to

AAUW's Great Decision
(A Foreign Policy Association) Discussion group
Wed., Feb. 5, 7:30 pm
At Anne MacLeod's home
For questions call Anne or Miriam Keller





President' s Message A Time to Serve

We welcomed back Marilyn Singer to the board with open arms. It is a classic example of asking a very busy person to take on an additional role for a limited time. Her experience and expertise is a wonderful addition to our board ' s combined knowledge.

From now until June the nominating committee will be seeking new officers and directors for the next two year term. Please consider serving as a board member or sharing a position. Sam Neeman is in charge of this effort. Email her with your ideas and consider offering to serve yourself!

The LWV California convention will be held in May this year in Ventura. If you have never been to a state convention, think about going to this one. It ' s close, in a wonderful part of the state, and will address the future of the state League for the next biennium.

Finally, we need more observers! Let me give you an example of why this is needed more than ever. Take a look at the board briefs and you will see that we offered testimony at the most recent Ohlone Board of Trustees meeting about open government. We knew that this testimony was needed because of comments from an arm-chair observer. That is someone who watches the board meetings on streaming video in the comfort of their home. When I arrived at Ohlone I was approached by several (that means 3 or more, folks) members of the Ohlone community asking where the League had been!! I answered that we are always there in spirit but could not always have a member there at the night of their meetings. We **REALLY** would prefer to have a Leaguer there in per-

son. Can you volunteer to go to 2 meetings before June? WE can share the observer duties among our members. We also desperately need someone to attend the hospital board meetings. At least Ohlone puts their meetings up on the web in a timely manner. The hospital board sometimes takes several weeks and had had been known to take much longer than that. So, email me or call me or Miriam Keller and join the observer crew.

Yours in League, Alex

Board Briefs

Voted to add Marilyn Singer as an At-Large member of the board to serve until June.

Decided to ask the treasurer, Peter Starr, to investigate options for Directors ' insurance

Asked Barbara to plan a February meeting on Government Reforms with California Forward on an recommendation from Anu Natarajan.

Asked Alex to find out tentative schedule for LWVUS studies on the Federal Role in Education and Privatization.

Notified board of Action Committee' s recommendation to testify at Ohlone' s board meeting on transparency and adherence to all open government laws.

LWVC Convention May 13-15, 2011

The next LWVC Convention will be the weekend of May 13, 2011 in Ventura, with special pre-convention activities planned for Thursday the 12. It will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel located at 450 E Harbor Blvd in Ventura, CA 93001. Hotel discounts, registration, and more details will be available in February on our convention blog.

We offer fun events, top-notch guest speakers, instructive workshops, caucus discussions of hot topics, and networking opportunities for everyone.

Interviews conducted by LWV members: Sets Amann, Barbara Friedrich, & Joyce Mueller

Newly elected Union City Council Members: Emily Duncan, Pat Gacoscos, & Lorrin Ellis

Budget and Economy:

Duncan: In the last two years, Union City reduced its budget by 5 million dollars. Measure AA (1/2 cents sales tax increase) passed and it will close the gap in the city budget by 3 million dollars; however there is still a 2 million dollars gap. The city will be asked to make some changes that will affect the budget. In the spirit of making changes, everyone is asked to make sacrifices.

Gacoscos: At this point we don 't know where the cuts will be. I believe some in personnel and other city services. The City laid off 4 police officers, employees asked to contribute toward their retirement, limit travel expenses for Mayor, Council members and City Employees, and city services. Each department is asked to submit the list of cuts to the city manager.

Ellis: I have two things in mind: EDAT (Economic Development Advisory Team consists of founding ex-council member Carol Dutra Vernaci, present council members Duncan & Ellis, small business representatives and community representatives) established by the City just outlined a general plan for economic development strategy. EDAT is creating consensus to see what community & business people want and need to attract business to come to Union City. How do you sell Union City in the market place? Second, EDAT will make Chamber of Commerce more accessible and visible to the business community. Chamber would like to increase membership and activities and restore some of the programs. With the passage of Measure AA and new revenues in the future, the City can reinstate the police officers and restore some leisure service projects and programs.

Public Safety:

Arizona Shooting:

Duncan, Ellis, Gacoscos: We are deeply sorry for the tragedy that happened in Arizona and our hearts go out to the families. It is unfortunate that an individual for whatever justification for his voice to resort to that type of action.

Ellis: I feel safe in the Council Chambers because there is an internal staffing safety protocol and our Police Department is below the Council Chambers and people will probably not provoke violent act when police dept. is 25 ft away I feel the best way to handle violent act are prevention. Have a community " mind set" and reach out to people who are lonely or depressed.

Duncan: With the passage of Measure UU in November 2008, part of the funding is used for Youth Violence and Intervention Program of which I am on the advisory Committee. The good news is crime is going down and NOT up. It has hired an outreach worker and series of town hall and community meeting is planned around the City. Upcoming meeting is at Our Lady of the Rosary Church on Jan 27. This meeting is to help the community understand what Youth Violence and Intervention Program is about, and to introduce the staff.

Gacoscos: I don 't feel there if racial profiling in Union City. We have Sister City Program from cities in China, India, Mexico, Philippine, & Thailand and the community in Union City is exposed to the diversity of different cultures. I am happy with how the city is handling the diverse community.

Transportation:

Ellis: Transportation has 2 aspects: Improve public transportation more accessible and as a viable alternative. The city continues to work on those aspects and continues to study the traffic pattern especially on Alvarado Niles and Decoto Area.

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Fireworks:

Gacosocs: The community voted to continue the sale of fireworks by different groups and organizations as part of their fund raising projects. Union City has 50% Asian population and they like fireworks, so to stop selling fireworks would be very difficult.

Duncan: Sometimes bad things happen when you sell fireworks. Maybe it is time to revisit the topic to sell or not sell fireworks and perhaps it should be on the ballot in the future.

CONVENTION ACTIONS

The LWVUS 2010 Convention supported the following resolutions:

- To support lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.
 - To call upon the Board to use the resources of the League to support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening should include elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment. We also call on the Board to communicate with the President and the Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are deeply concerned about this issue.
 - To call upon the Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster.
 - To add the principle of TRANSPARENCY to the SARA Resolution, as adopted by the LWVUS Convention of 2005. Revised to include the following Principles: Security; Accuracy; Recountability; Accessibility; and Transparency.
 - To call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all.
- To call upon the LWVUS to highlight the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable. Further, the LWVUS demands that our government hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up. The LWVUS further urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to immediately take all necessary steps to maximize to the extent practicable the ability and efforts of all relevant federal agencies and departments to take action, and to work with the U.S. coastal states and communities most directly and immediately affected, to respond creatively, efficiently and effectively to the environmental, health and economic crisis created by the oil flowing from the out of control BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico and by the efforts to contain and disperse it..

The Convention adopted the following positions by concurrence on the Convention floor.

- An addition to the LWVUS position on selection of the president; “We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for the election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.”
- An addition to the LWVUS Equality of Opportunity position: “The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.

LWVUS Arms Control Position, Updated

This position was updated by concurrence with the Arms Control Task Force at the July 2010 Convention.

Explanation of notations: Brackets [] denote words to be deleted. Underlining _ _ _ denotes words to be added. Each paragraph is numbered to correspond to paragraphs in the position as stated in Impact on Issues, 2008-2010, except for #4, #5 and #22.

#1 The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that arms control measures are essential to reduce the risk of war and increase global stability. Toward that end, the U. S. government should give the highest level of importance to arms control efforts that

- Limit or reduce the quantity of weapons;
- Limit proliferation and prohibit first use of nuclear weapons;
- Prohibit first use and possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons;
- Prohibit explosive testing of nuclear weapons,
- Reduce tensions in order to prevent situations in which weapons might be used.

#2. While these objectives should receive the highest level of attention, the U.S. government also should negotiate measures that inhibit the development and improvement of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons that increase incentives to attack first in a period of crisis.

#3 [As a long term goal,] As a goal of international negotiations, the League supports the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons.

#4. The League of Women Voters recognizes that peace in an interdependent world is a product of cooperation among nations and therefore strongly favors multilateral negotiations. Leadership by the United States in advancing arms control measures through negotiations and periodic review is encouraged.

#5. Given the potential for worldwide proliferation of nuclear technology, efforts involving all countries are essential to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and to protect commonly held nuclear weapons-free regions such as the seabed and outer space. Multilateral efforts are appropriate as well to achieve bans on the possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons; and to achieve limitations on the transfer or trade of all weapons.

#6. The League of Women Voters [believes, however, that for arms control to be effective, bilateral efforts are also necessary. Bilateral efforts] also supports bilateral arms control efforts which may be especially appropriate in negotiations to limit, safeguard and reduce quantities of weapons. The League believes that unilateral initiatives are not the most appropriate means to achieve arms control.

#7. The League does not support tying progress in arms control to other issues. The League believes that arms control is too important in and of itself and too crucial to all nations to be linked to other foreign and military policy goals.

#8. The League of Women Voters believes that arms control measures should be evaluated in terms of the following factors:

#9. EQUITY. The terms should be mutually beneficial, and each nation 's security and interests should be adequately protected, as should the security of all nations. Equity does not necessarily require equality in numbers of weapons but may be achieved through a relative balance in capabilities.

#10. VERIFIABILITY. Each party should be able to ensure that other parties comply with the terms of the agreement, whether using national technical means (such as satellites, seismic sensors and electronic monitors) or on-site inspection. The League recognizes the role that multilateral and international institutions can play in assisting verification efforts and believes it is extremely important to ensure compliance, [recognizing] acknowledging that absolute certainty is unattainable.

#11. Equity and verifiability are critical in efforts to limit and reduce quantities of weapons and to prohibit the possession and spread of nuclear weapons.

#12. CONFIDENCE-BUILDING. Each party should be assured of the political or military intentions of other parties. Fostering confidence is vital in efforts to stem the development and proliferation of weapons and prohibit [the] their first use; and to reduce tensions.

#13. WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT. All appropriate parties should participate in and approve the results of the negotiating process. However, the League recognizes that, in specific cases, progress can be achieved even though some key parties do not participate.

#14. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. The quality of the earth's environment should be protected from the effects of weapons testing or use. Environmental protection has special significance in negotiations [to prohibit the possession of chemical, biological and radiological weapons and to limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons] regarding all weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional weapons that have residual effects.

#15. CONTINUITY. Negotiations should build on past agreements and should be directed toward future negotiation whenever feasible. Innovative thinking and new approaches should, however, be encouraged when appropriate.

FURTHER GUIDELINES

#16. League support of arms control measures includes actions on proposals, negotiations and agreements.

#17. The League supports efforts to achieve quantitative limits or reductions that focus on nuclear warheads, non-nuclear weapons of mass destruction, missiles and other delivery systems, antiballistic missiles, conventional weapons or troop levels.

#18. The League advocates limits on the spread or proliferation of weapons, [to inhibit transfers of] nuclear technology, and fissile materials. [or weapons from one nation to another or to a geographic region] The League opposes the proliferation of weapons, nuclear technology and fissile materials to non-state actors or to commonly held areas such as the seabed or outer space. The League supports establishing effective international monitoring, accounting and control of such transfers.

#19. The League's pursuit of bans on the possession or use of weapons may apply to existing weapons or those not yet developed.

#20. The League seeks to reduce tensions through better means of communication, exchange of information or prior notification of military tests and maneuvers in order to avoid the risks of miscalculation or accident. Other League-supported measures to reduce tensions and create a climate of trust among nations include scientific and cultural exchanges, conflict resolution training, and strengthening the United Nations and its supporting agencies. Efforts are encouraged to mediate regional issues and arrive at negotiated settlements to minimize arms build-ups and avoid conflicts. The United States should keep lines of communication open.

#21. The League supports efforts to inhibit the development and improvement of weapons through qualitative limits, including limits on testing of weapons. These constraints may be selective or comprehensive in their application.

#22. Efforts to improve the arms control regime of international laws, oversight bodies and verification modalities are also supported, and U.S. engagement and leadership in this regard is encouraged. The League supports diligence by the United States in meeting the terms of ratified arms control agreements and in reviewing their effectiveness over time.

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:

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 the LWV Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information or for confidential dues assistance, please contact: Andrea Schacter—schacter@pacbell.net.

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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NOTABLE PEOPLE IN HISTORY



Henry Blackwell

- 1825, May 4 Born, Bristol, England
- 1832 Emigrated with his family to the United States
- 1853 Made his first speech for woman suffrage at convention in Cleveland, Ohio
- 1855, May 1 Married Lucy Stone, and on the same day published with her a joint protest against the inequalities of the marriage law
- 1855-1868 Engaged in bookselling, sugar refining, and real estate
- 1869-1901 Chiefly engaged in work for the American Woman Suffrage Association (after 1890, the National American Woman Suffrage Association)
- 1872-1893 Coeditor, Woman's Journal
- 1893-1909 Editor, Woman's Journal
- 1909, September 7 Died, Dorchester, Mass.

— Submitted by Vesta Wilson

100th Anniversary of Women Voting in California
Information from LWVSF Voter

In 1848, a group of fearless women launched a grass roots campaign aimed at winning the right to vote. They boldly declared that women are fundamentally equal to men and set about convincing the rest of the country that women deserve the vote. This was achieved slowly and gradually at state and local levels over many decades. In 1911, California became the sixth state to allow women to vote.

This year, we celebrate 100 years of winning the right to vote in the great state of California. Women have had ups and downs throughout this time. Today, a higher percentage of women vote than men, women's college attendance is equal to men's, and as of 2010, women make up 51% of the workforce in the United States.

However, the November 2010 election brought the percentage of women in Congress to a low of 17%. The United States is ranked 73rd in the world in the number of women in national legislative office. We trail behind Cuba and Afghanistan. San Francisco has only had one female mayor (Diane Feinstein in 1979) and Oakland just elected its first female mayor this year (Jean Quan). The under-representation of women in public office affects everyone. Check out the 2012 Project, a national, non-partisan campaign to increase the number of women in legislative office.

CONGRATULATIONS

**To League member Emily Duncan on her election to the Union City Council
and to Sarabjit Cheema for her election to the New Haven School Board.**

CALENDAR

Thurs., Feb. 3	Action Committee	12:00 pm brown bag Note new time	Kay Emanuele's home
Thurs., Feb. 10	Education Committee	9:30 am	Miriam Keller's home
Mon., Feb. 14	Board Meeting	6:45 pm	League Office 3375 Country Drive
Mon., Feb. 14	League's Birthday	Happy Birthday to Us	
Sat., Feb. 19	Voter Deadline	Midnight	
Mon., Feb. 28	General Meeting	6:30 pm	Washington Hospital West Conference Rm