

Voter

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



January, 2005

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City and
Tri-City Ecology present:

Environmental Sustainability - Charting a New Course
**Speaker: Justine Burt, Environmental Project Manager, Science Ap-
plications International Corporation**

“How can we motivate those around us to care about the environ-
mental issues when our rivers don’t catch fire and visibility is pretty good
most days? We can do this by knowing several basic facts about the state
of the environment and having a positive vision for a sustainable future.
Using maps, graphs and satellite photos, I will give specific, memorable
evidence of general environmental trends, then outline a blueprint for a
more sustainable future. Finally, we will break up into groups to discuss
what we can do at the local level to make a difference.”—Justine Burt

January 24
Golden Peacock Banquet and Restaurant
3681 Peralta Blvd.
Fremont

A couple of blocks East of Fremont Blvd.

Let’s have dinner together:

The Golden Peacock Bistro is open for dinner at 6 PM so let’s eat there
before the meeting.

Coffee and dessert at 7:00 PM
Program at 7:30 PM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January will be busy with a meeting co-sponsored with Tri City Ecology on January 24th. Held at the Golden Pheasant in Centerville, the meeting will feature an environmental lawyer speaking about issues that concern all of us. since the room at the Golden Pheasant is free to us, we are encouraging members to eat there at their café if possible. See another section of the Voter for more details.

January 9th is the Sikh temple election. We are doing poll duty, checking in voters, giving them their ballot and counting the ballots the next day. For our efforts we are to receive a generous donation. We need you to contact Letha Saldanha to offer your services. Call Letha at 623-8483 or e-mail. . We need at least 24 volunteers for January 9th and about 12 for the ballot counting on January 10th.

An electronic version of the California Voter is now available to all League members. Go to www.lwvc.org to see it. You can click on newsletters at the bottom of the left-hand corner of the home page of the LWVC web site to subscribe.

And the Energy Update Study has been extended into the fall of 2005. This is a realistic adjustment of the time line to allow Leagues more time to handle the two studies approved at the 2003 convention. On January 28th the League in conjunction with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the California Energy Commission, the Commonwealth Club of California and Town Hall Los Angeles will present "Keeping the Lights On" . Held at CPUC headquarters from 9-4, our League will pay the basic registration fee for members to attend. You may bring your own lunch or buy a box lunch. See the registration form in the Voter for complete information. Let Alex know if you plan to attend.

BOARD BRIEFS

- Ed. Comm. report on Ed. Study summary to be presented at next meeting for our approval.
- Letha will take names of volunteers for Sikh temple election.
- We accepted an invitation from Dirk Lorenz to provide volunteers for 3 hours on Feb. 12 & 13 to get ready for Valentine's day rose rush. He will donate \$500 to League for our efforts.
- Facts for Voters update in the works. Will appear in January.
- Membership Handbook will be out in early January.
- We need 6 more memberships to reach 100 by end of month.
- Our possible silent auction contribution to Democracy Dinner is an Argentine asado at the Starr ranch with views of the Bay Area.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ DEVELOPMENT

We got a check from the Registrar of Voters for \$570.00 We're rich!!!! Kinda. It is such fun to get one big check, and the Registrar of Voters got it right this time.

We also received a check from Albertsons for \$38.63 for scrip. That rounds it out to a full \$600.

—Kay Emanuele

QUOTE:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has. —Margaret Mead

LEGISLATION

One Victory, Two Losses

The League took stands on three state ballot measures in the November election.

We supported [Proposition 59--Public Records, Open Meetings](#)--which was approved by 83 percent of the voters. This constitutional amendment went into effect the day after the election and its sponsor, the California First Amendment Coalition (CFAC), immediately filed a request for the Governor's records of his appointments and meetings since taking office a year ago. CFAC believes that the public should know who is meeting with the Governor and is thus likely to be influencing his decisions. In 1991 the California Supreme Court exempted such records from public view with a very broad interpretation of the exemption provisions of the Public Records Act. The records request by CFAC noted that Prop. 59 requires that any statute that limits the public's right of access be narrowly construed. On November 19 Governor Schwarzenegger said he would comply with the request; CFAC will be monitoring the nature of the records he makes public. Proposition 59 is clearly a victory for open government.

The League opposed [Proposition 69--DNA Samples, Collection, Database, Funding](#). This measure passed with 62 percent of the vote. Voters clearly have heard that DNA samples can provide key evidence for solving crimes. They may well not have realized how extensively Prop. 69 will expand the number of people from whom DNA samples will be collected. Implementation of the measure is beginning with collection of DNA samples from all convicted felons, both current prison inmates and persons on parole or probation. In a November 9 article the *Los Angeles Times* said, "Between inmates, parolees and new felony convicts, the state could in one year roughly double the 250,000 DNA 'fingerprints' now in its database." Beginning in 2009 every person *charged* with any felony will have DNA samples taken. The Legislative Analyst estimates Proposition 69's mandate to cost nearly \$20 million a year once it is fully in place. The program is to be funded primarily by raising fines for some offenses by \$1 for every \$10 currently levied. Those who opposed Prop. 69 will be interested to see whether the public finds the collection to be an invasion of privacy and whether the funding will be adequate.

The League supported [Proposition 72--Health Care Coverage Requirements](#). It was defeated with 50.9 percent of the voters voting against it. The difference was about 205,000 votes of 11.4 million cast. Employers who would have been affected by Prop. 72 spent a great deal of money to defeat it. Although the League supported this employer-based health care system as a step toward universal health care coverage, our strongest support is for the Health Care for All Californians Act, a single-payer bill which has been working its way through the Legislature. The defeat of Prop. 72 must stimulate us to work harder to address the current crisis in access to health care.

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"Meeting the Challenge" Once Again

The LWVC board is launching a new membership growth incentive program. It is hoped that the PMP rebates will be an incentive for Leagues to concentrate on recruiting new members and meeting new goals. The growth program will begin in February 2005. Although similar to the "*Meeting the Challenge*" of 2001-2002, the compendium material has been updated to reflect new information and needs. The program itself will run for five years, long enough to evaluate the effectiveness of such an undertaking, but each year of the program will be self-contained. The membership component of the 2005-2006 year begins February 1, 2005 and concludes January 31, 2006. These dates coincide with the new LWVUS database membership count requirements. The activity component of the program begins March 15, 2005 and concludes March 15, 2006. The application form indicating a League's participation in "*Meeting the Challenge*" is due March 15, 2005. A League will have a full year to complete its program activities as well as a full year for the membership count. As with the prior incentive challenges Leagues must show a 5 percent net gain in membership in 2005-2006 as well as meeting their goals in four out of seven areas of work: Leadership Development, Communications, Intercommunity Development, Action, Citizen Education, Voters Service and Development. Every League will receive a copy of the materials for "*Meeting the Challenge*" in late December or early January. Leagues that meet their 5 percent net membership growth and activity goals will have their state per member payment for each new member rebated back to them after they have paid their PMPs. This is a wonderful way to enrich your treasury as you grow in membership and revitalize your League.

LWVC Authorizes Student PMP

Although this item must be acted upon at State Convention 2005, local Leagues will be glad to learn that the LWVC board has recommended adoption of a student per member payment rate. The LWVUS bylaws state that "the per member payment for a member who is a student shall be equal to one-half the per member payment amount determined at convention. A student is defined as an individual enrolled either full or part-time in an accredited institution." Changes to the LWVC bylaws needed to implement the student PMP proposal will be included in the convention workbook. If adopted, this LWVC change should help membership growth in Leagues that have developed relationships with students and encourage others Leagues to do the same.

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 _____
 E-mail _____
 New Member _____
 Renewal _____
 Transfer from _____

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.

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 Materials are available 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM
 with permission from a board member*

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

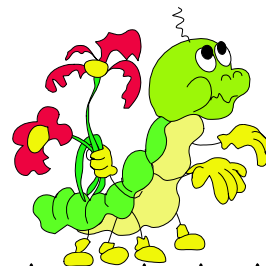
AN INVITATION FROM AAUW

The American Association of University Women invites members of the League of Women Voters to join them in their Great Decisions group. Great Decisions is sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association. The topics this year include U.S. intelligence, Russia, Outsourcing Jobs, China, Sudan's crisis in Darfur, the Global Poverty Gap, the Middle East and Global Water Issues. The meetings will be the 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:30pm at members homes starting in Feb. For more information or to join, call Anne MacLeod, 651-0646 or gcmacleod@comcast.net. —Miriam Keller



SAVE THE DATES

Fremont Flowers has chosen us to earn \$500.00 in February for helping on Sat., Feb. 12th and Sun. Feb. 13th to prepare roses for Valentine's Day. We need 12 people each day to work and enjoy a three hour shift. It is not hard work, no brain drain, and you can take time to "smell the roses". Think about it, and sign up with Kay Emanuele.





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF FREMONT,
NEWARK AND UNION CITY**
P.O. Box 3218 Fremont, CA, 94539
(510) 794-5783

Nonprofit
Organization
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Fremont, California

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

TBA	LWVFNUC Board Meeting		
Jan. 9 and 10	Sikh Election—Sign up and save the dates	Both all day	TBA
Tues., Jan 11	Action Committee	10:00 AM	Miriam Keller's Home
Fri., Jan 14	Education Committee	11:45 AM Bag lunch	Miriam Keller's Home
Wed., Jan 19	Cable Taping	2:30 PM	Comcast Studios
Mon., January 24	Unit Meeting—Joint Meeting with Tri-City Ecology	7:00 PM	Golden Peacock Restaurant