



LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY 1, 2014
BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY
“A New Vision for Open Space”
MTC Auditorium,
101 8th Street
Oakland

Speakers will address questions about Progress in Open Space Preservation, the Economic Benefits of Open Space and Future Challenges



Hot Topic

Come meet Fremont’s new police chief Richard Chief Lucero, Feb. 20, League Meeting Room at High Noon

In This Issue...
 Page 3.....Program Planning
 Page 8.....Meet Our New Members
 Page 9.....LWVUS 501©3 Update

MONDAY, JANUARY 27th

6:00 P.M.

LEAGUE MEETING ROOM
3375 COUNTRY DRIVE, FREMONT

BREAD & SOUP DINNER
 and

LWVUS PROGRAM PLANNING

Join your fellow League Members at our 2014 Program Planning Meeting. This is our Members’ opportunity to influence LWVUS positions.

Guests are welcome but cannot ‘vote’ on positions. And, since it will likely be a cold night we’re planning on having soup and bread to warm our bodies and stimulate our brains.

We will review national positions and decide on which, if any, national position needs to be reassessed with an update, an act of concurrence or a new study.

Our League’s delegates will join all other delegates at the LWVUS convention in June in Dallas to vote on any suggestions for changes.

Presidents' Message



Happy New Year! The League ended 2013 with a great holiday social, receiving two \$500 grants from One Nation Foundation, via LWVC, and confirmation that Alameda County Leagues are making their mark on the re-writing of the Alameda County Transportation Bond Measure B This last item affirms important aspects of League study and advocacy. Alex Starr and Mim Hawley are working with the Alameda County Transportation Commission to incorporate changes suggested by the League when the first Measure B went down to defeat in last year. There is a short article about our party and more pictures on our website and Facebook page. By the way - don't miss our quick Facebook updates. Like us on Facebook from the website - www.lwvfnuc.org.

We're already planning a packed 2014 starting off with our program planning meeting on January 27th. Read more about the Program Planning processes in this issue. It would be great to see you there. Plan on meeting Fremont's new Police Chief Lucero at a brown bag lunch Hot Topic meeting on February 20th.

Action Group is working on Legislative Interviews - email John Smith (jsmith1152@aol.com) if you'd like to be involved. Education Group is working on this year's Y-Vote contest (miriamkel@comcast.net) . Voter Services is already gearing up for the 2014 Primaries (schacter@comcast.net).

Get involved! We have lots of one shot jobs for this Spring.

Remember –

Democracy is not a Spectator Sport!

Sam Neeman and Carolyn Hedgecock

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Program Planning Q & As

Why do we have Program Planning?

To adopt a set of advocacy priorities. On even years local Leagues address national priorities. On odd years we address state priorities.

How does this help LWVUS guide its advocacy goals?

It enhances League's effectiveness by concentrating resources on identified priority issues.
It builds League's credibility and visibility by projecting a focused and consistent image.
It ensures League has sufficient issue and political expertise to act knowledgeably.
It enables League to manage resources effectively.

How does the LWVUS Board set advocacy priorities?

It considers opportunities for the League to make an impact.
It follows program decisions made at convention and Council.
It considers member interest.
It seeks to manage available resources effectively.

SUMMARY OF LWVUS PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote.

Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment.

Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance.

Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President.

Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote.
Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation.

Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making.

Individual Liberties.

Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.

Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress.

Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency.

Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries.

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-

supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality.

Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy.

Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use.

Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources.

Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management.

Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues.

Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights.

Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing.

Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education.

Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy.

Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit.

Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements.

Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas.

Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance.

Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services.

Provide essential support services.

Housing Supply.

Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

Sentencing Policy

The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

Holiday Social



This year's Holiday Social, held on a cold wintry night, was filled with warm feelings and friendly conversation among more than twenty members who enjoyed Carolyn Hedgecock's hospitality at her beautifully decorated home..

The food was varied and so delicious from salads to desserts - all our members must be gourmet cooks!

At the end of the evening we joined in a



shared reading of "The United States of America versus Susan B. Anthony" where we learned of the challenges Susan met when she pursued her right to vote. Many thanks to Carolyn for hosting, Mary Miller for coordinating the potluck event and Miriam Keller for finding an entertaining and informative reading. For more pictures got to our website www.lwvfnc.org

Meet Our New Members

Marilyn Berens, Evelyn La Torre, Lisamaria Martinez, Toni Shellen

Marilyn Berens was born and grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota. She graduated from Hamlin University in St. Paul with a BA in elementary education and sociology. She worked as a first grade teacher, a manager of a real estate office, and an employment consultant/recruiter Office. She moved to Fremont over 30 years ago because of her husband's work. She is retired and enjoys tap dancing, yoga, play taiko drums and volunteer in a kindergarten classroom for a teacher who is her neighbor. Welcome Marilyn to League of Women Voters.

Evelyn LaTorre was born and raised in Montana. Her family moved to Fremont and she graduated from Washington High School and Holy Names University in Oakland. Upon graduation, she entered the Peace Corps and went to the Andes Mountains of Peru to work in rural community development. At the end of her two-year commitment she met and married Walter, a Peruvian university student.

Evelyn has Masters degree in Social Welfare from UC Berkeley and a Psychology Credential from Cal State East Bay. She worked twenty years as a School Psychologist for the Fremont and San Jose Unified School Districts. In 1983, she completed a doctoral degree in Multicultural Education at the University of San Francisco. She taught part-time at various universities, including classes in bilingual assessment in Guadalajara, Mexico.

After thirty-two years in education, Evelyn retired in 2002. She fills most of her time traveling, gardening, and presently completing a memoir about her adventures growing up in Montana and her time in Peru.

Lisamaria Martinez was born and raised in Southern California. She has BA Degree from UC Berkeley in Social Welfare, Sociology Concentration and MA from Louisiana Tech University in Educational Psychology, Orientation and Mobility concentration, NOMC.

She currently works at the San Francisco Light House for the Blind and she commutes each day from Union City to San Francisco on BART. She believes strongly in affordable, well maintained, all day, clean and safe public transportation. She has lived in Union City for six years and she loves her community. She is involved in community activities from neighborhood watch to local politics and wants to get more involved. She is young, energetic and loves to get caught up in a good cause. Lisamaria would like to help the League and her community. A childhood illness left her with limited vision. Lisamaria has volunteered for National Federation of the Blind and has organized seminars for the blind and visually impaired persons interested in sports and recreational activities through online network.

She is also proficient in grades one through three of the Braille Code and Nemeth Code. She loves Judo, Tandem biking, Dance, Yoga, traveling, and public speaking.

Toni Shellen, new League member, was honored by State Assembly Member 25th District, Bob Wieckowski, as Fremont Local Hero at 2013 Address and Award Ceremony on December 11, 2013 at TESLA headquarters, Fremont, CA. Toni was honored for all the community work she had done in Tri-City promoting peace, harmony & safety for the diverse community. One example is she chaired the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence. League is proud of Toni Shellen's accomplishment.

Submitted by Sets Amann

Update from Ohlone President Gari Browning
A participant in last month's presentation by Dr. Browning asked how long it would take to pay off Measure A. The answer is that a portion of it will be paid off in 2026 with the remaining amount paid off in 2030. The outstanding amount is about \$125 million of the original \$228 million. The good news is that both of the big projects supported by Measure A, the Newark Center and the Student Services Building on the Fremont campus, should serve us well beyond that date

FROM LWVUS LEADERS' UPDATE DEC. 5, 2013

Last week, the IRS issues a notice asking for public comment on proposed rulemaking regarding 501(c)4 organizations. In the wake of the 2012 election during which millions of dollars in secret money poured through networks of such organizations, the League of Women Voter has issued a statement welcoming this new rulemaking process because we applaud those aspects that would rein in the dark money abuses that we have seen since *Citizens United v. FEC*. On the other hand, we are deeply concerned about those aspects of the proposal that would define voters service work, including the nonpartisan work of the League, as political activity inappropriate for 501(c)4 social welfare organizations. Much of the reaction from other organization, even those with whom the League works closely, has been aimed at stopping the rulemaking process. The League has been held up as an example of why the proposal overreaches in defining political activity. It is important to note that we are at the beginning of a very long process of developing a rule that will clearly define what tax exempt organizations can do in the political arena. This definition of "political activity" will likely be at the heart of the debate. We intend to be very involved in the rulemaking process because the issues under consideration are so important to the League and to our democracy.

To that end, in the future, we will be providing press templates and other guidance for state and local Leagues to use. The initial comment period ends February 27, 2014, after which there would normally be a new, fully developed proposed rule and in additional comment period. If you get any calls from national media regarding this issue or process, please direct them to Kelly Ceballos at LWVUS. She is also a resource for you in responding to local media inquiries as well. The rulemaking process is lengthy and complex and it will be important to find the right balance between protecting our elections from huge amounts of secret money and providing voters with truly nonpartisan voter information. But the fact that the task might be hard is no reason to scuttle the process before it begins. Given the gridlock in Congress, executive action to control money in elections is a key avenue that is available to us. I believe the right balance can be found if we do what League does best: speak with one voice, providing facts and advocating in the public interest. The League has never shied away from challenges. Finding a way through legislative and administrative thickets to arrive at a solution that promotes the common good is something we know how to do. Let's take this opportunity to make democracy work?

Elisabeth McNamara, President, LWVUS

Local News – news items excerpted from our 3 cities' web sites

Union City

Download City's Mobile App Today!

Today, citizens can use their smart phones to point, click and submit requests and feedback directly from their smart phones to the City. Citizens using Android and Apple mobile phones can communicate first-hand, their requests with supporting photographs and notes to illustrate the issue. Citizens can also check the updated status of their requests 24x7 via their smart phone. This new technology improves the community by yielding better information from citizens and also helps keep the City informed on issues of importance to citizens. The application is easily downloaded from the Apple and Android App Stores, simply search Service UC and scroll to find Union City.

Newark

The Afro-American Cultural & Historical Society, Inc., Tri City Area and Newark Community and Arts Program presents: The 40th Annual Black History Month Observance, Saturday, February 8, 2014, Newark Community Center, 10:00 am-6:00 pm

For more information, please call (510)792-3973 or (510) 793-8181.

Fremont

Grant will Kick-Start Downtown Enhancements
A \$5.8 million One Bay Area Grant awarded to Fremont from MTC and ACTC, will kick-start efforts to enhance pedestrian, bicycle, and auto connections between the Downtown and the Fremont BART Station. Capitol Ave will be extended from State Street to Fremont Blvd and will include bike lanes, diagonal parking, a landscaped median, and 10 foot to 15 foot sidewalks with street trees and additional landscaping. This will be the first stretch of Capitol Avenue where enhancements approved in the 2012 Downtown Community Plan will be showcased. Construction is slated to begin on the extension of Capitol Avenue in the summer of 2014. The grant award also includes improving connections from Capitol Avenue across Paseo Padre Parkway through the Gateway Plaza with new signage, improved bike and pedestrian paths, and additional landscaping. These improvements are slated to begin in late 2014/early 2015

Jan 13	Board Meeting	7 PM - League Meeting Room 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Jan 16	Action Group	12:00 Noon - League Meeting Room 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Jan 27	'SOUPER' Program Planning – hot pot luck soup & hot ideas for LWVUS	6 PM - League Meeting Room 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
Feb 1	Bay Area League Day – Open Space	9:30-2, 101 Eighth St, Oakland
Feb 20	Brown Bag Lunch with Fremont Police Chief Lucero	12:00 Noon - League Meeting Room, 3375 Country Drive, Fremont

ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2014 9:30-2 PM

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

“A NEW VISION FOR OPEN SPACE”

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 Andrea Schacter, 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 \$ _____