

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



V O T E R

Voting

Democracy

Civic Engagement



Lara York

FUSD Board President

and

Milton Werner

FUSD Superintendent

will discuss

Budget Challenges

What Do We Do Next?

What would you cut?

Adult School Reductions

Deferred Maintenance

Art & Music Block Grant

Operations & Grounds Reductions

District-Wide Work Year Reductions

CSR elimination 9th grade English & Math

Increase Grade K-3 class Size to 30:1

Elementary PREP Reduction

District Wide Pay Cut

Custodial Reductions

Stipends Reductions

Monday, March 15, 2010
 7:00 pm
 Kidango Headquarters
 41000 Old Warm Springs
 Blvd., Fremont



President' s Message

My President' s column this month is the compilation of birthday wishes for the League that we gathered at our 90th party. It makes for good reading.

Alex

90th Anniversary Good Wishes to League

May the League continue to be a beacon of reliable information giving citizens a source of the pros and cons rather than the paid for media sources bent on using "news" to warp views.

I wish you continue to clarify complex issues and that you double in size.

Happy Birthday League! I' m so glad I met you so many years ago. You never grow old and stale. Live Forever!

I wish for the League that it will continue, that more interested and active people will realize the value of the League and its principles to bring this country to a glorious future.

Happy Birthday League of Women Voters

May you have many 90 more. At the rate that Congress and the California Legislature are solving problems we will not run out of issues to address. You will definitely be needed.

Reverse the recent Supreme Court ruling affecting money in campaigns.

Happy Birthday to the LWV. Continue to help inform the Voter and work to keep voting fair and available.

May your next 90 years be as impressive as your 1st 90!

May the LWV continue to be an influence, inspiration and guide in our community, state and the country. Amen.

Happy Birthday to an organization that for 90 years has set the standard for voter service, education and stimulating conversation!

I wish more people knew what the League is and does and how it is membership driven.



Dear LWV,
Happy 90th birthday! You ' re really looking well for your age. After all these years, you ' re vigorous, intelligent and utterly committed to your founding goals. You ' re the best!!

My hope is that the League will continue to grow, to be an asset to the community and to be a wonderful place to meet new people and make lasting friendships.

Happy, Happy 90th! Thank you for fighting so we can vote, run for office, be anything we want! Our lives are so much better because of you.

Happy Birthday League of Women Voters

Thanks for opening the door for real citizenship and empowerment for us all!

Happy Birthday League

You have supported the right to vote with information and advocacy to keep the right relevant. May you continue to grow and serve.

I wonder if we can show again a program about the Delta on the TV program. The Bay Area League is a fascinating group of Leaguers.

Continued on page 4

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

On February 15th, about 25 of us partied the night away at the Niles Congregational Church, enjoying a luscious dinner, singing “Happy Birthday” and blowing bubbles—all in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. In addition, we wrote birthday wishes to the League on special birthday cards.

With ragtime music providing background entertainment, we dined on everyone’s favorite potluck offerings, which produced a well-balanced array of healthful and tasty dishes. Our one dessert was a special cake baked and decorated by Jovita, a friend and former student of Martha Crowe.

After dinner we all enjoyed watching *IRON JAWED ANGELS*, a recent movie depicting the struggle for woman suffrage in the United States. The movie illustrated how the militant suffragists of the early 20th century endured tremendous suffering and personal sacrifice that finally resulted in the 19th amendment to the Constitution—winning for women the right to vote.

Inspired to learn more, I trotted over to the Fremont Mail Library and found a fabulous book—*JAILED FOR FREEDOM: American Women Win the Vote*, by Doris Stevens, who was a member of the National Woman’s Party. Originally published in 1920, it was edited and reissued in 1995, upon the 75th anniversary of the original work. This book provides detailed descriptions of the people, (including photographs), events and bitter struggles seen in the movie. I highly recommend it.

Party planners, Martha Crowe and Andrea Schacter, would like to thank all who helped to make this a fun event: Alex Starr, Marilyn Singer, John and Sybil Smith, John Landers, Jeff Spencer and Dave Fishbaugh, as well as all who provided their potluck goodies.

--Andrea Schacter--

Donations in honor of the 90th Birthday

Some members are wondering why we need to raise more money even though we have a nice cushion in the bank. Well, there are two reasons.

The first is that good practices dictate that we have at least two years in reserve tucked away in case of an emergency. We have that – just barely.

The second is that we no longer have use of Comcast studios to tape candidate or issue forums. That gap may last as long as 18 months. We just do not know yet how that will be resolved. As I understand it, several changes in state and federal law now dictate the Comcast no longer has to provide community access programs. So, we will now have to tape council and school board candidate forums at their places of business. That means we will have to pay for their technical gurus to tape the programs. We estimate that will amount to between **\$250 and \$300 per program!!** We have not yet figured out how we can do issue programs on ballot measures for distribution on local cable channels. I am sure that if and when we do cross that bridge, the toll will be similar to the candidate forums.

So all of these fees add up to several thousand dollars for 2010 alone.

That’s why we are asking for birthday donations.

Alex Starr

Thanks!!!!

The League of Women Voters of Fremont-Newark-Union City would like to thank the following members who have made donations of \$90 or more to LWVFNUC in honor of the League’s 90th birthday:

Setsuko Amann, Sue Chan, Sandi Pantages, Holly Walter,

It’s not too late to contribute to the League to help celebrate 90 years of League involvement in *Making Democracy Work!*

Testimony Before the Fremont City Council

Dear League,

Happy 90th Birthday. Thank you to all the courageous women who came before and paved the way for us.

My hope for League is that more voters will become more issue oriented and look to the League for information and focus.

I joined particularly because of education committee 's studies of community colleges. The League has a good reputation for studying the facts of important issues and educating themselves and others. LWVFNUC excels in these areas.

I wish that we can increase our membership in younger women to continue our history.

Mayor Wasserman and Council Members. I am Alex Starr and I speak on behalf of LWVFNUC.

We believe strongly that raising the Redevelopment Cap is good for Fremont and the other taxing entities. It is one of few economic revitalization tools remaining at the local level.

The agency' s investments lead the way for private investors to reinvest in the project areas. Approximately every dollar spent by redevelopment agencies generates 14 dollars of economic activity. It is second largest provider of affordable housing in the State. In Fremont over \$50 million in affordable housing expenditures produced over 1,100 units for low, very low and extremely low households.

From revenues gathered, approximately 20% is set aside for affordable housing and about 40% is shared with other taxing entities with Pass-through Payments. FUSD is one of these entities. With the Plan Amendment, FUSD will receive roughly \$11.5 million more (\$4.3 million more in today 's dollars).

These taxing entities receive their share of property tax based on property values at the time the Redevelopment Plan becomes effective and also share in the increases in property values over time through payments made by Pass-Through Payments. Currently all taxing entities have approved the Plan Amendment and executed the necessary agreements allowing the Plan Amendment to move forward.

The Plan Amendment includes areas in Irvington, Niles, Centerville, and the Industrial Area. It does not include the NUMMI area.

Areas benefited by Redevelopment include:

Washington Grade Separation
Historic Districts – Niles Town Plaza, Bill Ball Plaza, Fire Station #2
Interchange Improvements along 880.

February Board Highlights

- Dr. Gari Browing from Ohlone College will attend the March Board Meeting.
- Smart Voter Reception—This will occur on Sunday, April 18 and will take place at Alex and Peter 's ranch. We are looking for volunteers to help participants.
- Administration and 90th Anniversary Party—plans are in place for a fun event. Jane and Sandi have put together a wonderful email appeal for birthday donations.
- Program—We started brainstorming speakers for our annual meeting in June. Ken will contact Sweet Tomatoes for a possible venue.
- We identified the programs for the following monthly general meetings: March 15—FUSD Budget Update; April 19—Advocacy meeting—Prop 15 (C alifornia Fair Elections Act); May 17—Initiatives pro/con

Action Committee

A subcommittee of Action Committee is observing FUSD's Health and Sex Education Advisory Committee's monthly meetings. The 20 member committee has recently completed revising their by-laws which will now go to the School Board for approval.

The Board has given the Advisory Committee the task of reviewing the 5/6 sexual health curriculum. All curriculum has to comply with the State Ed. Code which means it must be comprehensive and factually accurate. The committee is using a state checklist as they review materials to ensure compliance.

There has been some discussion about compliance at some schools, and a discussion about what is core material and what is supplementary material began at the last meeting. The issue was not resolved, and possibly all members and the League need to re-search this issue to fully understand it.

The meetings are open to the public and are on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM at the FUSD District Offices. Anyone interested in being appointed to the committee for a two-year term should fill out an application from FUSD.

The June Election

Proposition 13. Property Tax: New Construction Exclusion: Seismic Retrofitting. Although the LWVC generally supports regular, frequent reappraisals for property tax purposes, and this measure excludes certain construction from reappraisal, a case can be made for the public safety benefit of encouraging seismic retrofits. **Neutral**

Proposition 14: Elections: Open Primaries (Top-Two Candidate Open Primary Act). The LWVC has never studied political parties, nor how they select their candidates, and has no position on this subject.

No Position

Proposition 15: Political Reform Act of 1974: California's Fair Elections Act of 2008. The LWVC has been a supporter of public financing and is co-chair of the campaign to pass Prop. 15. **Support**

Proposition 16: New Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers. LWVC positions call for a simple majority vote on revenue and finance measures at both the state and local levels. **Oppose**

Proposition 17: Allows Auto Insurance Companies To Base Their Prices in Part on a Driver's History of Insurance Coverage. The LWVC has not studied, and therefore has no position on, insurance issues.

No Position

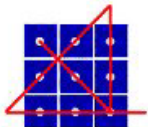
Yes Fair Elections: Proposition 15

The League is co-chair of the campaign to pass the California Fair Elections Act on the June 8 ballot. The measure will create a pilot project to make voluntary public financing available to Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018. The new Supreme Court decision, Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission, makes public financing even more necessary as the long-term solution to the influence of big money in campaigns. Go to the LWVC website to

- Find out more about the campaign and opportunities for speaker training, volunteer orientation and kickoff events. This is a grassroots campaign, and it's important for every League to be involved.
- Find out more about the League's work on campaign finance.

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

Dear Leaguers:

This February marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. How did the League of 1920 differ from our organization today? What was it like to be a member in those early days?

I unexpectedly found some answers when I came across my old copy of *Eleanor and Franklin*, Joseph P. Lash's biography of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, that I'd read so avidly in my teens. As I leafed through it, I saw the words "League of Women Voters" and took a closer look.

I knew Eleanor Roosevelt was an LWV member, but I did not know what an active member she was. I found it striking that the League activities she took on, and the fulfillment she found in them, are as recognizable today as they were 90 years ago.

In 1920, Eleanor was 36 years old, married, a mother of five. She was, according to Lash, beginning to forge an identity that extended beyond her privileged upbringing and the role of supportive wife to a rising political star. "She wanted to be fully involved – with work, with people." So she joined the League of Women Voters.

After Eleanor joined, the chairman of the New York State League asked her to serve on the state board and chair the legislative committee. I had to laugh. Yes, even 90 years ago Leagues got hold of brand new members and immediately put them on the board! Her first job was to identify bills of interest to the League. She worked with two other members whose "careful, documented workmanship shaped Eleanor's standards in her approach to public issues and helped her to do serious, sustained work." We do the same kind of careful bill tracking and legislative analysis today, and our work is still infused with those same high standards and the process of learning through mentoring.

In January 1921, Eleanor attended the state League convention as a delegate from Dutchess County. According to Lash, the Republican political machine was still smarting from the LWV's campaign against anti-suffrage Senator Wadsworth. Regulars of both parties

thought the League needed to be put in its place. The new governor, Nathan Miller, a Republican, "outraged the convention with a denunciation of the league as a menace to American institutions because of its social-welfare program and lobbying activities." Although Republicans outnumbered Democrats 5 to 1 at the state convention, the League, led by Narcissa Vanderlip, a Republican, protested the governor's speech and reaffirmed "the right of women to work as a group outside the political party for political measures." I can clearly see that our "political, but not partisan" nature was apparent from the start; the League's lobbying activities discomfited the political establishment even then; and members voted their consciences, showing a fine disregard for party loyalties, just as they do now.

As Lash noted, although Eleanor had long followed politics as an observer, the League was her "baptism in politics." When the League decided to sponsor a bill requiring the political parties to give equal representation to men and women at all levels, it was her job to get the legislation drafted, find bipartisan support, and fight amendments to weaken it. Although speaking in public was agony for her, she persevered, giving reports to the state convention and speaking at local League meetings. As we know, she overcame her fears and became a noted public speaker. Today, in the same way, League members learn the political landscape and the workings of government, and become adept at legislative analysis and lobbying. And, just as Eleanor did, we grow personally and professionally through our League work.

Eleanor was a local League delegate to the 1921 national convention in Cleveland. Twenty years later, as First Lady, she addressed the 1940 LWVUS convention and recalled the speech of Minnie Fisher Cunningham of Texas, which made her feel "that you had no right to be a slacker as a citizen, you had no right not to take an active part in what was happening to your country as a whole." Some 90 years later, the League of Women Voters still lives those ideals.

Happy 90th birthday, League of Women Voters. Here's to the next 90 years!

Janis R. Hirohama
President, LWVC

Water Experts Cautiously Optimistic about New Delta Legislation By Gail Schickele

Historic water reform legislation to manage co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem sustainability in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has passed in four state policy bills, now law, to be funded by an \$11.14 billion bond put before California voters in November 2010.

“ If the water legislation is the last thing we do, that would be bad — but if it ’ s the first thing we do in a long process to doing a lot more, that would be good, ” commented Pacific Institute President Peter Gleick at a forum on the new legislation hosted by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership on December 10. “ We have a legislature that knows more collectively about California ’ s complex, weird water situation than we ’ ve had in a long time, ” he observed. “ Let ’ s take advantage of that. ”

The Natural Resources Defense Council was among the environmental groups that supported the legislation. “ The status quo is unsustainable and must be changed, ” remarked Kate Poole, a senior attorney with the organization. “ We ’ ve run out of time and we need to do something now. What we ended up with in the package is a very important first step. ”

The Delta Governance/Delta Plan, Senate Bill 1 (Simitian), repeals the current CalFed Bay-Delta Authority structure and replaces it with a seven-member Delta Stewardship Council. This politically appointed body will be charged with creating and overseeing a new Delta Plan, and determining criteria for the adoption of the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The BDCP is currently being developed to dictate the permitting process for water exports, in compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act and California ’ s Natural Community Conservation Planning Act, which requires ecosystem-wide biological analysis and implementation of projects to recover threatened or endangered species. The Department of Fish and Game and the State Water Resources Control Board identify Delta estuary water supply needs in determining water diversion amounts associ-

ated with the BDCP.

SB 1 further establishes an 11-member Delta Conservancy Board to implement ecosystem preservation, conservation and restoration, and to promote economic vitality, tourism, recreation and environmental education within the Delta. The bill also re-structures the current Delta Protection Commission from 23 to 15 members, and appropriates funding from Proposition 84 (the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006) to support the Two-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Program, a project in the central Delta that will use operable gates to protect sensitive species and manage water supply. An independent science board and Delta Science Program will inform the adaptive management program required by the bill.

Senate Bill 2 (Cogdill) is the Legislature ’ s proposal for an \$11.14 billion general obligation water bond to be put to the voters to fund drought relief projects (\$455 million), surface and groundwater storage (\$3 billion), regional water supply reliability (\$1.4 billion), Delta ecosystem and sustainability (\$2.25 billion), watershed conservation and restoration (\$1.785 billion), groundwater protection and water quality (\$1 billion), and water recycling and efficiency (\$1.25 billion).

An \$11 billion general obligation water bond would cost the state ’ s general fund \$800 million a year in interest payments for the next 30 years. Existing water systems in California were paid for mostly by local ratepayers without reliance on general obligation bonds, which are based on the “ beneficiary pays ” principle, according to Rande Kanouse of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). The water agency estimates that the costs of restoring the Delta ecosystem and related improvements will exceed \$50 billion. The “ beneficiaries pay ” principle means that if a community wants a new or expanded water delivery system, that community must be prepared to pay for those improvements.

Groundwater monitoring mandated by Senate Bill 6 (Steinberg) is groundbreaking legislation that requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Water Experts Cautiously Optimistic about New Delta Legislation continued from page 7

to establish a schedule for monitoring groundwater basins and review of groundwater elevation reports, as well as to make recommendations to local entities for improving monitoring programs. Noncompliant local entities will be ineligible for state water grants or loans, and will be monitored by DWR at the expense of local entities.

California is among the last states in the nation to monitor groundwater.

Statewide water conservation is addressed in Senate Bill 7 (Steinberg) and requires, for the first time in California history, the development of agricultural water management plans. This means that agricultural water suppliers must measure water deliveries and adopt pricing structures for water, based at least in part on quantity delivered. The suppliers will also need to submit their plans and efficiency measures by 2013, and DWR is mandated to report agricultural water efficiency practices to the Legislature in 2013, 2016, and 2021. The bill also requires urban water agencies to reduce statewide per capita water consumption 20 percent by 2020.

“We need real conservation and efficiency,” Gleick said. “There’s a weak, weaker, and weakest part of the bill in the conservation argument. On the weak side is the urban efficiency piece [but] I was delighted to see a 20 percent per capita reduction on the urban side. Weaker is the monitoring and enforcement of that — a lot of people got let off the hook on the urban side. But the weakest part of this is the agricultural side; here they got let off completely. There are no targets for specific reduction in agricultural water use or improvements in water use efficiency and I think that’s a big problem, since agriculture is an important piece of this puzzle — especially in the Delta or in water that comes out of the Delta to the agricultural community.”

According to EBMUD, agriculture generates \$36 billion in annual receipts and uses 80 percent of California’s water supplies.

Senate Bill 8 addresses water diversion and

use, and appropriates \$546 million from voter approved ballot measures from 2006 (Proposition 1E, also known as the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection Bond Act, and Proposition 84) for grants in regional water management, flood protection projects, stormwater management, and community conservation plans.

The legislation does not authorize a peripheral canal, which has been widely discussed as a water conveyance alternative to achieve the state’s co-equal goals for the Delta.

“No matter what we do the Delta will be different,” said Ellen Hanak, director of research at the Public Policy Institute of California. “Prepare for fundamental, inevitable and irreversible change.” Her organization recommends a dual conveyance water system that combines through-Delta and peripheral canal management to best achieve the co-equal goals (for more on this recommendation, see “Solutions for a Delta in Crisis” in the October/November 2008 Monitor). “The Delta is at a tipping point,” she said, due to land subsidence, sea-level rise, floods, earthquakes, ecosystem changes from invasive species and habitat alteration, and prohibitive costs for maintaining all Delta islands, many of which are below sea level. The Bay Area is more dependent on water that comes through these Delta pumps than urban Southern California, with one-third to the Bay Area, one-third to urban Southern California, and one-third to agriculture, Hanak said.

The Delta supplies water to two-thirds of Californians.

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<http://www.bayareamonitor.org>

Documentary Film: At the Death House Door

Fremont Main Library

Saturday, March 6th at 1:30 pm

The speaker will be Natasha Minsker, Death Penalty Policy Director, ACLU of Northern California.

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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NOTABLE WOMEN IN HISTORY

Amy Kirby Post

Amy Kirby was born in 1802 in Jericho, New York. Her parents were farmers and Amy was one of eight children. The family belonged to Society of Friends (Quakers).

Amy Post became active in the anti-slavery movement. Her home was part of the Underground Railway. Sometimes she housed between 10 and 20 fugitive slaves a night.

Post worked for women’s rights as well as for the abolition of slavery, and was active in the woman’s rights movement from its inception in 1848. She attended the Woman’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls.

Post attended numerous women’s rights conventions throughout her life. In 1872 she was one of the women who along with Susan B. Anthony attempted to vote in a national election. Unlike Anthony, Post was not allowed to vote, although she did succeed in registering. In 1873, Post once again attempted to vote but was turned away.

She was one of the founding members of the Women’s Political Club, founded in Rochester in 1885. In 1888, well into her eighties, she attended the International Council of Women in Washington D.C. which was billed the largest women’s rights convention held up to that time.

Besides suffrage and abolition, Post was involved in number of other causes throughout her life, including Spiritualism and temperance.

In 1882, the Rochester Community showed appreciation and respect for Post’s work with a celebration of her 80th birthday. She died seven years later on January 29, 1889 and her funeral was held at the Unitarian Society
—Submitted by Vesta Wilson

Avalon Election May 25th

Our League has been hired by Avalon Home Owners association to collect and count ballots for their annual board of directors election. According to Jean Holmes, our liaison for all home owners association elections, “We will need a crew of six or seven to count 275 ballots.” Please contact Jean if you are interested in being a member of the election team. Her contact information is in the Membership Directory.

According to Home Owners Association Elections rules, California Civil Code 1363.03 requires that Home Owners Associations must adopt rules setting forth Specific Voting Procedures. One of those Procedures is that HOA Elections be monitored by Independent third Party Inspector(s). The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, is the perfect third party to help Home Owner Associations comply.

The League of Women Voters can conduct the best Elections possible with the knowledgeable, non-partisan, historical reputation and expertise The League can produce the ballots, receive mail-in ballots, oversee the count of ballots, or administer the entire Election. Our fees for these services are determined by the complexity of the Election and the number of personnel required.

Thurs., Mar. 4	Action Committee	12:30 pm Brown Bag Lunch	Miriam Keller 's home
Mon., Mar. 8	Board Meeting	6:45 pm	League Office 3375 Country Drive, Fre.
Mon., Mar. 15	Program Meeting <i>“FUSD Budget Challenges”</i>	7:00 pm	Kidango Headquarters 41000 Warm Springs Blvd
Mon., Mar. 17	Voter Deadline		
May 14-16	LWVC Council		Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza Sacramento
May 25	Avalon Election	6:30 PM	Club Sport
June 11-15	National Convention		Atlanta, Georgia