



**JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Acacia Creek Masonic  
 Mission Blvd, Union City

9:00 Breakfast  
 9:30 Assembly Member  
 Bob Wieckowski  
 10:30 Business Meeting  
 and Auction  
 Full Breakfast \$12.25  
 R.S.V.P. Sets Amann

Further details will be  
 included in  
*Call to Annual Meeting* which  
 will go out in early May

***In This Issue***

- p. 3.....Bylaws and 501©3
- p. 7.....Honda Interview
- p. 9.....B.A.L.D. Summary

**May 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

General Manager  
 Richard Currie  
**Union Sanitary District**

Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>  
 6:30 Meet and Greet  
 7:00 Guest Speaker

Fremont Congregational Church  
 38255 Blacow Road, Fremont

- What does USD do?
- Why do they have a “net zero” energy bill?
- What area do they cover?
- Why is your bill rising?
- What are their future plans?

## President's Message



We are looking forward to many things this time of year. Among them are:

LWVC Convention being held in San Jose from May 17-19. This is a time to network with old friends, meet new friends, attend workshops and caucuses filled with presentations of new ideas and best practices.

A forthcoming membership renewal letter announcing our second annual drawing for a free membership for 2014-15 for some lucky Leaguer who has renewed by the start of the annual meeting.

The EdSource Conference in May that will try to explain the upcoming reforms affecting school financing, teacher quality, and measurement of student and school performances.

Our May meeting with Union Sanitary District General Manager Richard Currie.

Our Annual Meeting at Acacia Creek Retirement Community featuring a guest speaker and an exciting auction, election of new officers, and consideration of new bylaws for 501© status.

Please come to as many of these events as you can. It is the best way to support your League and to get your money's worth from you dues.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-13

### Officers

President	Miriam Keller president@lwvfnuc.org
VP Administration VP Program	Open Ellen Culver program@lwvfnuc.org
VP Voter Service	Sets Amann voterservice@lwvfnuc.org forumscib@lwvfnuc.org
Secretary	Carolyn Hedgecock
Treasurer	Peter Starr

### Directors

Voter Editor	Alex Starr votered@lwvfnuc.org
Communications	Isabelle McAndrews publicity@lwvfnuc.org
At Large	Kathy Bray
At Large	Martha Crowe
At Large	Judy Keller
At Large	Mary Miller
At Large	Pat Lewis
At Large	Jean Holmes
Social Media	Daria Wagganer
Historian	Susan Gearhart

### Off Board

Membership	Andrea Schacter
Education Cmte. Chair	Miriam Keller
Action Cmte. Chair	Kay Emanuele action@lwvfnuc.org
Cable Cmte Chair	Kay Emanuele
Webmaster/Db Admin	Peter Starr webmaster@lwvfnuc.org
Membership Team	Open Kathy Steel-Sabo Lynn Locher
Nominating Cmte.	Open Jean Holmes Gail Blalock

Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City (LWVFNuc)

PO Box 3218 Fremont, CA 94539

510-794-5783

[www.lwvfnuc.org](http://www.lwvfnuc.org)

Editor Alex Starr

Layout: Jane Mueller

## ***Annual Meeting Information***

Saturday, June 8, 2013    Breakfast - 9:00 A.M.    Speaker: 9:30    Business Meeting/Auction: 10:30

Location: Acacia Creek Masonic Home

3440 Mission Blvd    Union City, CA 94587

Breakfast Buffet \$12.25

Members can write the check to LWVFNUC.

You can skip the breakfast and just attend the guest speaker's presentation and the business meeting.

Please try to RSVP by May 31

### **ANNUAL MEETING BYLAWS INFORMATION ABOUT 501(c) CONVERSION PROPOSAL**

**Submitted by Sam Neeman, Administrative V P**

#### **Changing to a 501(c)(3)**

At our upcoming Annual Meeting in early June, the voting membership will be asked to approve changes to our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation; both of these amendments are related to our League's proposed conversion to tax exempt status under §501(c)(3). These amendments will not be filed with the California Secretary of State until the Board of Directors, in consultation with LWV California, is confident that the Internal Revenue Service will approve the League's application (as part of the LWV California group exemption request) to convert to tax exempt status under §501(c)(3). A full package of information including the amendments will be sent to all voting members with the Annual Meeting Packet. We, the Board, felt it would be helpful to provide initial information to you regarding the proposed amendments a little early.

After serious discussions and consultation with LWV California, the Board of Directors believes it would be advantageous for both our League and its members and donors for the League to apply to the Internal Revenue Service to convert its tax exempt status from Internal Revenue Code §501(c)(4) to §501(c)(3). Accordingly, the Board authorized LWV California to include us in a group exemption request, which has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service, to make such a conversion.

The most certain benefit made possible by such a conversion is that membership dues and any contributions payable to our League would be tax deductible for the members/donors who itemize deductions in their personal income tax purposes. We feel this is a real benefit to many of our members. We also hope such tax deductibility may also make it more attractive for our members and donors to make or increase their contributions to our

League.

Equally important is the Board is comfortable that such a conversion will not change or limit our existing activities, and most particularly will not in any way act to limit our League's work in advocacy or action.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

##### ***What does it mean that a League is "tax exempt"?***

If qualified under Internal Revenue Code §501(c)(3) or (4), a League is itself exempt from federal and state income tax. However, a League may still be liable for other kinds of taxes, such as personal property taxes, sales or use taxes, etc., depending on its activities.

##### ***What is our League's current tax exempt status, and what are the advantages and disadvantages of this status?***

Our League has qualified as tax exempt under §501(c)(4). Besides being exempt from income taxes, this status permits a League to undertake unlimited lobbying activities. However, although many Leagues pursue various kinds of advocacy, usually only a very small part of a League's advocacy activities fit the definition of "lobbying" (see discussion of this term below).

The major disadvantage to §501(c)(4) status is that membership dues and contributions paid directly to a League are not tax deductible to the members/donors. Tax deductible contributions may be made on behalf of a League through the LWVC Education Fund, but such funds cannot be used to support all of a League's expenditures.

##### ***What is "lobbying" in this context?***

The definition of “lobbying” for tax purposes is closer to the League concept of “action” than the broader term “advocacy.” Activities are classified as lobbying if they are related to acts, bills, resolutions, or similar items (a) at the federal, state or local legislative level, or (b) in ballot measures, e.g., a referendum, initiative, constitutional amendment, etc. These activities may address the introduction, amendment, enactment, defeat, or repeal of Acts, bills, resolutions, or similar items. By contrast, a League can advocate for various kinds of reform, but such advocacy does not constitute lobbying from a tax perspective unless it includes a reference to specific proposed legislation, specific ballot propositions, etc.

Additionally, lobbying activities must involve communication with any member or employee of a legislative body, or with any other government official or employee who may participate in the formulation of the legislation. It also includes “grass roots” lobbying, or communication with members of the organization or members of the public to urge them to contact their legislator, etc., or to vote for or against a ballot proposition, etc. In the local League context, such “action” or lobbying normally involves just members’ time rather than out of pocket expenditures to the local League, but occasionally a League may incur expenditures in this regard.

#### ***What determines whether a League can qualify for tax exempt status under §501(c)(3)?***

In order to qualify as tax exempt under §501(c)(3), a League’s lobbying activities cannot constitute a “substantial part” of its overall activities. In measuring what constitutes a “substantial part,” a League can elect to measure the magnitude of its lobbying activities based on the ratio of its lobbying expenditures to its total expenditures (rather than by the number of hours spent on lobbying as a percentage of total time spent). It is only if a League’s lobbying expenditures reach or exceed 20% of its total expenditures over a multi-year period, that its lobbying activities are deemed to be a “substantial part” of its overall activities and it would not be able to qualify under §501(c)(3). It is hard to imagine this happening for almost any local League over a multi-year period.

Every League has at least a minimum amount of lobbying expenditures due to (a) the fact that a small portion of its LWVUS and LWVC Per Member Payments will be considered lobbying expenditures on a “look-through” basis; and (b) the fact that local Leagues often reproduce LWVC’s recommendations on ballot measures in their VOTER issues and League websites.

Most Leagues do not incur much more lobbying expenditures than these minimum items. Therefore, most Leagues should be able to qualify under §501(c)(3) without having to change their normal level of activities, and definitely should not have to limit their levels of advocacy or even action.

#### ***What are some of the advantages of our League converting to being tax exempt under §501(c)(3)?***

The most certain benefit from such a conversion would be that member dues and contributions paid directly to a §501(c)(3) League would be tax deductible for its members or donors who itemize their deductions. (The dues are fully deductible provided that the League does not provide any benefits directly to its members as a condition of membership.) It would be hoped that a League could achieve a higher level of contributions once they become tax deductible, but it will be hard to establish exactly what the impact of this change would be. Additionally, with this status a League would be eligible (a) to obtain foundation or government grants, which are very difficult to obtain with a §501(c)(4) status; and (b) to obtain discounts from certain vendors (e.g., PayPal). Finally, there would be less administrative work under this status because a League would no longer have to maintain an Ed Fund account at LWVCEF to receive tax deductible contributions.

#### ***What are the possible disadvantages or costs to our League from converting to being tax exempt under §501(c)(3)?***

First, it is necessary to formally apply to the IRS for qualification under §501(c)(3). On a standalone basis, a League’s application effort would be very time-consuming, and it may not have members qualified to handle this process. However, LWVC has minimized this issue because in April 2012 it filed a “group exemption request” on behalf of local Leagues which want to make this conversion. Additional Leagues may join this group effort during the IRS review process.

So far 32 California Leagues have joined in LWVC’s group request. (Three Leagues have previously applied and are now qualified under §501(c)(3).) LWVC will handle all of the communications with the IRS about the group request, and the most a local League will possibly have to do is to provide specific information the IRS may request. Also, a League would have to

pay a filing fee of \$400 or \$850 (depending on its size) for an individual application, while to participate on a group basis these fees will be reduced to approximately \$50 or \$110 per League. It should be noted that LWV Wisconsin filed such a request for its 17 local Wisconsin Leagues, and received IRS approval in mid-2011. LWV Washington State and LWV Minnesota are actively exploring this same approach. Three California Leagues (Alameda County, Glendale/Burbank and Pasadena Area) have also qualified under §501(c)(3).

***What other kinds of issues should be addressed by our League regarding conversion to being tax exempt status under §501(c)(3)?***

If a League concludes that it wished to convert its tax status, it will be very important to develop a plan of communication with its “stakeholders” to be sure that they understand the reasons for the change of tax status, and what such a conversion means regarding the League’s operations on an ongoing basis. These “stakeholders” should include not only League members but also significant donors and organizations it works within its local community. This effort should have the highest attention of each League’s leadership.

***Are there any problems because a large part of any League’s budget is composed of Per Member Payments being made to §501(c)(4) organizations?***

No, this issue was specifically raised during the applications made by several California Leagues, and after lengthy discussions the IRS agreed that there were no problems with this structure under §501(c)(3).

***Why does our League have to amend its articles of incorporation and bylaws?***

Because of the benefits an organization can realize from its status under §501(c)(3), the IRS requires that certain safeguards be built into its foundation documents.

First, the IRS requires that the definition of an organization’s purpose be specifically limited to fit within the parameters of §501(c)(3). This is the reason for the proposed amendment of the “Purposes” sections of the articles and bylaws.

Secondly, the IRS wants to be sure that assets which are being held for charitable, educational, etc., purposes under §501(c)(3) can only be transferred to another such qualified organization if the first organization is dissolved for some reason. Historically, a League’s articles and bylaws have

almost always provided that upon dissolution its assets will be transferred to LWVC or LWVUS, but these dissolution provisions must now be revised to be sure that the recipient League organization is qualified under §501(c)(3).

***Are there additional reporting requirements for League which convert?***

The great majority of Leagues currently file an e-Postcard with the IRS, and many with the Franchise Tax Board. For these, there is only a single additional form to be filed. For larger Leagues which file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, there may be two additional forms to be filed, but overall the incremental work is very minimal.

There will also be a requirement that Leagues provide written acknowledgement to persons who contribute a total of \$250 or more (membership dues and donations) in a calendar year. Many Leagues already provide written thank you letters to donors beginning at much lower levels, so this tax requirement should not normally be an additional burden.

***Do LWVUS and LWVC recommend that Leagues convert to §501(c)(3)?***

Neither LWVUS nor LWVC believe that it is appropriate for them to “recommend” that a League pursue this conversion; rather it is a decision which can only be made by the board and members of each League based on its particular situation. A few Leagues have very specific individual factors which caused them to decide that it would be best not to convert, based on factors unique to their particular situation.

On the other hand, in order to support Leagues which wish to convert, as described above LWVC is committing significant time and effort to initiating and managing the group exemption request process, reducing the work burden on local Leagues and significantly reducing their out of pocket costs. LWVUS has also been supportive of the efforts of both LWV Wisconsin and LWVC on this issue.

***Has LWVC applied to convert its status to qualify under §501(c)(3)?***

LWVC filed its own application to convert to §501(c)(3) in May 2012. Because there are two state League organizations (LWVC and LWVCEF), and its operations are much more complex than those of a local League, the LWVC Board of Directors has formed a Task Force to help the Board give additional consideration to the potential ramifications of such a conversion.

**What if a League converts to §501(c)(3) and then wants to convert back?**

Actually almost all Leagues can simultaneously meet the qualifications of both §501(c)(3) and (4), although under IRS rules they can only have one of those classifications at a time. Accordingly, if a League were to determine that it no longer wishes to be qualified under §501(c)(3), it would be relatively easy for it to apply to the IRS to convert back to §501(c)(4), with the attendant fee, and there should be no reason that the IRS would refuse to grant approval to the application.

**There is much discussion in the media about the possibility of major tax reform. How should this impact making a decision on conversion to §501(c)(3)?**

There is no way to judge the likelihood of tax reform legislation, or if there is, what form it might take. Discussion about different types of tax reform

are a continuous process, and an incredible variety of specific reforms have put forth for consideration. Clearly, §501(c)(3) organizations play an extremely vital part in our society, and they attract support from all parts of the political spectrum, so any attempt to remove or reduce the tax benefits of such organizations is going to require a truly massive political effort to be successful. And any such effort will have to provide an alternative tax treatment for the previously qualified organizations, because if you remove the benefits it would be necessary to also rewrite the conditions to which such organizations have been subjected.

The tax reforms most frequently suggested in this area in recent times have been to somehow limit the deductibility of contributions (and other itemized deductions) for high income taxpayers. Such an approach would have a much lower potential impact on the League of Women Voters because our most frequent donors are typically not among the most wealthy in our society.

<b>POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND COSTS OF CONVERSION TO §501(C)(3)</b>	
<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to members/donors who itemize on their individual tax returns.	There are costs to filing application and related paperwork with Federal and state government agencies.
Tax deductibility of dues and contributions may increase revenues to the local League.	In order to get IRS determination, local Leagues will have to amend their articles of incorporation and bylaws, normally at an annual meeting.
It may be easier for a local League to qualify a foundation or government grant for League activities.	Annually, information must be collected and retained as to the local League's lobbying expenses, at least with respect to PMPs.
Some vendors (e.g., PayPal) give discounts to §501(c)(3) organizations but not other tax exempt organizations.	Local Leagues have a very modest additional tax reporting requirement.
Reduced financial administrative work for local League as a result of elimination of local League Ed Funds at LWVCEF.	

Special thanks to Tom Carson of the LWV California who provided most of this information. Tom, working for the LWV California educated and provided materials to Leagues interested in converting tax exempt status.

**NEWS FROM LWVC**

The LWVC and Common Cause are cosponsoring SB2 (Lieu) and SB 3 (Yee), the Sunshine in Campaigns Act, to make it easier for Californians to know who is spending money where and to beef up enforcement of campaign laws. In addition, unlike past years, there are a number of disclosure bills in the legislative hopper this year. We support SB 27 (Correa) and expect to act on more of those bills in the coming weeks.

**You can sign up to get Action Alerts on this and other issues. Go to:**

<http://www.lwvc.org/user/register>

You can also follow bills the League has taken a position on via the Bill Status Report

<http://ca.lwv.org/act-now/bill-status-report>. The

LWVC is closely following bills on CEQA, Fracking, and gun control bills.

## ***Interview with Congressman Mike Honda***

**(Keller, Schacter, Singer)**

After exchanging a few pleasantries, we began by asking Congressman Honda how he is becoming familiar with his new district. He stated that he has researched his new district by absorbing precinct and demographic information, meeting with public officials and labor groups, and by meeting with the Chambers of Commerce. He has lived in the region for a long time and knows the physical layout of his new district. As demonstrated in his last campaign where he had phone messages in 21 languages, he understands the diverse population he represents.

Congressman Honda considers Silicon Valley a “State of Mind” and thinks that Fremont, a well-run city, the hub of the District, is a part of that “State of Mind”. We spoke to him about the Tri-Cities being the area that is sometimes forgotten because of Oakland to the north and San Jose to the south. He said he prefers not to think of distinct borders, but rather as a regional entity with shared concerns. He added that Berryessa is his only San Jose district (the balance of his district encompasses Cupertino, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale).

Transportation is of prime importance, to the Congressman. He supports having more charging stations so electric cars can be used to travel longer distances. Instrumental in securing \$900 million for BART/VTA, he stressed the need for funds to maintain the system. He thinks that Tesla/Toyota/Fremont is putting the pieces together well in the development of south Fremont. He told us he has expertise in passing bond measures to continue progress. His idea is that if people know exactly what their money will buy and the importance of the measure, he can help pass the funding measures.

Passionate about immigration reform, he reminded us that he was instrumental in passing the 1986 Amnesty Legislation. He said that an immigration package has many facets. We need to recognize the reasons why people want to emigrate to the U.S.: because conditions they are fleeing are worse than living in the shadows here; trade treaties that exacerbate poor economic conditions in neighboring countries; immigrants return \$9 billion to families in other countries, so it is much preferred that families be reunited here. Additionally, the benefits of harnessing the brainpower of talented immigrants

needs to be considered. Immigration needs to be thoughtful, efficient, provide a pathway to citizenship, and student oriented, so Dream Act kids can become citizens. He concluded by saying that there should be equal protection for all, including members of the LGBT community. He is an advocate of fair trade--not free trade.

The Congressman said that voting rights laws should be inclusive- not exclusive. He is a co-signer of the Voter Improvement Act along with Representative John Lewis, the well-known civil rights leader. He thinks that what some states are doing now is a sophisticated form of a poll tax. The Federal government should continue to challenge the constitutionality of these exclusionary laws recently enacted by some states. He is aware that congressional committees have used money inappropriately to move public opinion on DOMA, and the decisions have been political. He thinks that the days designated for voting should be expanded to increase voter turnout, while still respecting the sabbath of various religious groups.

When asked about his position on gun reform, Congressman Honda started by saying that the NRA give him a 0 % rating. He is a current gun-owner, who reminisced about spending time target shooting with his dad when he was a boy. He now wants more regulation and supports the repeal of the Tiahrt Amendment.

On the deficit, the Congressman thinks that people do not understand the deficit. If we decrease revenue, the bills still have to be paid, and that means more borrowing and more interest payments. This makes no sense. Originally spending on war that was not included in the budget, only as a supplementary item. That helped get us into the present situation. The administration has now included the expenses in the budget so it can be seen and dealt with. Congressman Honda has authored a bill, Budget For All and is leading the fight for a progressive budget which includes trimming defense spending. To increase revenue, he would decrease corporate loopholes especially for companies doing business overseas. He supports restructuring the tax code and is on the Task Force for the Budget and part of the Democratic Liberal Caucus.

Congressman Honda was very cordial and gave us double the time scheduled for our interview. He seemed sincerely glad to talk with us and will be in touch through his staff in Fremont on Fridays.

## **LWVBA MONITOR ARTICLE ON BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY**

This excellent summary taken from the Bay Area Monitor will show you what you missed if you could not attend.

### **The Big Gulp: Considering Conveyance at Bay Area League Day**

By Leslie Stewart

Its formal title — Bay Delta Conservation Plan Tunnel Conveyance — could be the name of a culvert on a road construction diagram. But that is perhaps the only mundane aspect of a proposed major water project which already promises to be more controversial than its rejected predecessor, the Peripheral Canal. As the focal point of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area's annual Bay Area League Day, it generated many questions with many conflicting answers, and not a small amount of passion.

Matt Weiser, senior writer at *The Sacramento Bee*, began the February 2 forum by answering a key question: What is it? He described two giant water diversion tunnels, stretching 35 miles from a point on the Sacramento River south of Sacramento to a new forebay near Tracy, feeding the State Water Project and Central Valley Project pumps that send water even farther south. The project would include habitat restoration in the Delta involving conversion of some farming land, as well as levee improvements. A new pumping protocol would apply to the entire system, and there would be a 50-year operating guarantee, with many terms of the project locked in for that period of time. Building the tunnels would be a huge engineering project, requiring six boring machines, 26 feet in diameter and 600 feet long, working continuously for eight years below the Sacramento Valley floor. Construction of facilities on each end would necessitate additional years of work. Weiser also emphasized that the important question of governance still needs to be answered: Who will control the pumps?

He addressed another obvious question — why build it? — by summarizing the situation with the Delta that has prompted the state to consider such a massive project. The Bay-Delta estuary contains 40 percent of the land area of the state, and 50 percent of the state's water passes through it. It's affected by many influences, from dredging and pollution to invasive species, from land development and

farming to water exports which alter river flows. These impacts, which have gone on for decades, are interdependent and reinforcing. The Delta, with its water, is critically important to residents, farmers, recreational users, and urban areas in southern California — but it's ecologically fragile and growing more so, and that in turn endangers the state's economy.

Were the plan to be scrapped and no other action taken, Weiser envisioned grave consequences, stating that the environment would suffer and water availability would shift dramatically. "You will see controversy about farming in the San Joaquin Valley and what they will grow, or whether they will conserve more water or need subsidies for irrigation," he predicted.

Other speakers added details to Weiser's outline. Christina Swanson of the Natural Resources Defense Council explained that only 50 percent of the water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin watersheds gets to the Delta, because the rest is diverted. As a result, "as far as the Delta can tell, it's drought every year," and fish populations are collapsing. The conveyance plan's habitat restoration element will therefore be essential, according to Felicia Marcus of the State Water Quality Control Board. "The goal is fish, not water," she noted, since "if you talk to the fish, they'll say they need more than water."

If history is any indication, keeping wildlife habitat and human need in balance won't be easy. Richard Roos-Collins of Water and Power Law Group PC acknowledged that a structural conflict has dragged on between water supply and the ecosystem since 1961, with constant litigation over "taking" of species. However, he said that a variety of factors have threatened fish populations, so blaming human water consumption alone is shortsighted. He also said that instead of scapegoating the State Water Project and Central Valley Project, the collective effects of all diversions must be considered.

Noting the estimated \$14 billion cost just for tunnel construction, Adam Scow of Food & Water Watch asked who will pay for the project. Roos-Collins responded that "we don't know how to fund the system," but he claimed that most of the total \$20 billion cost would be paid primarily by the contractors who purchase water from the state projects. However, "they haven't agreed to this yet, and until they do it won't be built — and the cost will go up if it's not built right away."

He argued that the matter has lingered too long. “This is the seventh year of this planning process,” he said, “and \$200 million has already been spent on it, and hundreds of thousands of hours have been spent, because the alternative is too awful.”

That may be, but not everyone believes a major diversion project is the best way to manage available water. Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, campaign director for Restore the Delta, would rather see efforts to strengthen levees, reduce the amount of exported water, route fresh water through the Delta, increase reliance on local water supplies statewide, and improve water conservation.

She urged League Day attendees to “study everything — I believe the tunnel is not the best plan, but prove me wrong! If you achieve self-sufficiency, the tunnel may be irrelevant.”

Elizabeth Dougherty from Wholly H2O explained how localized water management, including rainwater capture and better recycling, could make a significant contribution to self-sufficiency. Peter Brostrom of the California Department of Water Resources described new water conservation targets

set after the 2007-09 drought, already being met by some water suppliers. “Water suppliers don’t want to be on the wrong side of a target,” was his wry comment. One of those agencies is the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, whose representative Steve Ritchie described extensive regional water planning. The State Water Board’s Marcus said that her agency is also working on a Bay-Delta plan. She commented that multiple plans are “not a silver bullet but there will be a lot of silver buckshot.”

Climate change will make things worse, according to Maurice Roos of the California Department of Water Resources. Sea level rise could affect the Delta and push salty water inland; less water trickling down from a diminished Sierra snowpack would mean less effective water storage and release, as dams need to dump water to keep flood control capacity. In evaluation of the bigger picture, he warned, “We need to realize that we have a finite and variable supply; we should be planning to manage for that, not planning to meet demand. That’s where the least amount of conversation is going on in these discussions.

---

## **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW AND YOU CAN BE A WINNER THIS YEAR!**

If you renew your League membership by June 8, 2013, will you be eligible to enter our drawing for a free membership next year. What a deal! Just ask Alice Johnson, last year's winner, who has the privilege of League membership at no cost this year. Renewing is so easy. You do so on-line by going to our secure website ([lwvfnc.org](http://lwvfnc.org)) and clicking on RENEW.

Or you can fill in the form on the last page of this VOTER and mail it in along with your check. Those wishing to pay at the annual meeting on June 8 will still be eligible for the drawing. So what do you have to lose? Go ahead and save the League time and effort by renewing your esteemed membership now. You could save yourself \$60 next year.

### ***WHY SHOULD I SUPPORT THE LEAGUE BY JOINING OR RENEWING?***

- Do you want your community to be strong, safe and healthy?
- The community needs everyone to participate in order to be a strong, safe, fair and vibrant place to live.
- LWV is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.
- Join or renew LWV and be directly involved in shaping the important issues to keep our community strong on local, state and national levels.
- As an LWV member, you are part of an organization where smart, active leaders work to create change in their communities.

May 1	MTC – Plan Bay Area – public comments	6-9 P.M. Mirage Ballroom, 4100 Peralta Blvd, Fremont
May 4	LWVBA Council	10 – 12 Woodside
May 6	Education Committee	7:00 P.M. at Miriam’s house
May 13	General Manager Rich Currie, Union Sanitary District	6:30 Networking, 7:00PM Program Fremont Congregational Church, 38255 Blacow Rd, Fremont
May 17-19	LWVC Convention	San Jose
June 8	Annual Meeting –	9:00 AM Breakfast; 9:30 Speaker; 10:30 Business Meeting. Acacia Creek/Masonic, Mission Blvd, U.C.

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

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_