

Voter

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



A non partisan organization established to promote political responsibility through informed, active, participation of citizens in government

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Looking back at this past League year I see good progress in many areas. Our financial status continues to be strong. A welcome infusion of profits from the state convention helped us reach our goals without much trouble. This next year will be more of a challenge. Without convention profits our dues will barely cover our combined PMP (Per Member Payment) dues. Both LWVC and LWVUS fees rose. Every non profit is feeling the economic crunch and League is no exception. A portion of the LWVC raise will go towards hiring and executive Director for the state. We are the second largest state League with over 10,000 members. LWVC board needs expertise to fund raise, support the membership and run the state office. My view is that it will also help them recruit state board members with a reduced burden on the volunteer board members.

LWVUS has significantly downsized office staff and office space. Their PMP rise addresses the smaller membership base that has to support national's goals. At the LWVUS convention in Washington, D.C. in June, many workshops on the budget and informal conversations with board members illustrated just how much thought has gone into their downsizing efforts. The delegates voted to put Civil Liberties at the highest priority level for LWVUS. In order to support that activity level without increasing PMP more than the already suggested 80 cent increase, delegates voluntarily started a drive to raise the money for an additional staff member. Donations were taken from the floor by those leading the drive to put Civil Liberties at the top of the agenda. If you feel that efforts to renew the Patriot Act and even add to it should be carefully monitored and wish to contribute to the fund, send a check to LWVUSEF and make a notation on the memo line that it should go to CIVIL LIBERTIES efforts. Touch screen voting and paper trails were also a hot issue. You will see in another section of the Voter how that was resolved in a very League-like manner.

Earlier at the LWVC Leadership Council we learned that the Education Update Study and the Energy Update Study are both on track. We also learned of Regional Training workshops to be held at Agilent Technology in Santa Clara on Sept. 18th. More details on workshop topics and the two updates in the next Voter.

Finally, our Voter Service co-Vice Presidents, Ellen and Letha look forward to seeing many of your faces this Fall as we schedule candidate and issue forums, voter registration drives, provide speakers for community groups, and increase our outreach in this Presidential election season. Remember we won the statewide award for Voter Service for small size Leagues last year. Help us continue our award winning efforts this year.
---Alex Starr, co-President

If you have not renewed your membership yet, do so now! And don't forget, every member belongs to the Membership Committee. So go out there and sign up a new member today!

OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

League Year 2003-2004

The Observer program serves as a resource to both our local League and our communities. League observers enhance League action, citizen information, and program planning activities of the League, as well as increasing public awareness of the League. They can also have a beneficial effect on the way elected bodies conduct themselves.

Our principal success story continues to be the Ohlone College Board of Trustees, observed by Julice Winter. Julice reported in the *Voter* on actions taken by the Ohlone Board during October that raised questions of possible violations of open meeting laws (principally the Brown Act). Immediately preceding its November 12th meeting, the Ohlone Board scheduled a workshop on the Brown Act, and we continue to see improved awareness on their part of open meeting requirements.

We appreciated the work of the Nominating Committee in recruiting Observers. Members of the Observer Corps attended public meetings throughout the course of the year, and Board members tried their hand at being Observers during the months of April and May. May was also the month of the "Observers Gala," a dinner meeting in which the Corps and Board observers compared notes and laid plans for the coming year.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Washington Township Hospital Board appears to merit our attention. Our observer reports that the members of the Board meet privately for dinner before each Board meeting. Discussions in the public meeting are perfunctory, and votes tend to be unanimous. Although this is not conclusive, it is suggestive of the need for open meeting law scrutiny.

Although Observers are expressly prohibited from speaking publicly, they make a real impact. We encourage members to join the Corps and become a "silent force in the community."

—Jane Mueller, Observer Corps Chair

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Education Committee:

- ▶ Sponsored one informational Unit Meeting on "No Child Left Behind".
- ▶ Studied the Master Plan and the bills associated with the Master Plan.
- ▶ Distributed an informational paper on the Master Plan at the 2003 Annual Meeting.
- ▶ Discussed local education issues as they arose.

Three members attended the EdSource Conference.

The Education Committee is looking for members, especially from Newark and Union City.

—Lara York, Chair, Education Committee

CABLE COMMITTEE REPORT

Another successful year as we provided the Tri-City area with great Voting matters programs ranging from interviews with Dr. Treadway and the new school superintendents to Fremont Creek Cleanup and the Tri City Homeless Coalition. We also increased the "crew" size. If you are interested in joining the cable crew, contact Emily Sawyer. Who knows where the next star of stage and screen will come from? Maybe from Voting Matters!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Half of our League's Board is replaced each year. This means the Board always has a carry-over of members to ensure that we have strong continuity. This year, the following positions were filled:

Program Co-Vice Presidents: Ursel Bloxsom, Ken Ballard

Voter Service Co-Vice Presidents: Ellen Culver, Letha Saldana

Treasurer: Catherine Souders-Mananpour

Directors:

Publicity: Syeda Yunus

Facilities/Special Events: Marilyn Singer (Off Board)

Action, Miriam Keller

Webmasters: Peter Starr, Jack Keller, backup and trainee

Cable Chair: Emily Sawyer

Nominating Committee Chair: Jean Holmes

Nominating Committee Members: Joanne Landers, Carolyn Hedgecock

Nominating Committee Members from the Board: Ann Crosbie, another to be appointed

Continuing Board Members:

Co Presidents: Alex Starr, Susan Gearhart

Administrative Vice President: Kay Emanuele

Secretary: Mary Miller

Historian: Jean Holmes

Membership: Ann Crosbie

Observer Corps: Jane Mueller

Voter Editor: Vesta Wilson

VOTER SERVICE REPORT

1. Reminded members to distribute voter affidavits.
2. Arranged three voter registration sites prior to March elections.
3. Ordered and distributed *Smart Voter* and *Pros and Cons*
4. Contacted Comcast for dates and times to have forums
5. Wrote letters to candidates about use of LWV website for Smart Voter and forum times and dates.
6. Made calls to confirm candidates presence at forums
7. Wrote letters of thanks for candidates' involvement
8. Arranged for Poll Workers for the March Election

—Ellen Culver, Voter Service chair

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

In order to keep a record of the 2003-2004 League year, a file has been maintained for each of:

FNUC roster

Board Agendas

Board Minutes

Special Projects

News Clippings

Study Committee Reports

Voter Information

As always, a request is made to all members to submit for the archives any and all information regarding League activities to which you may have access. Future League members will thank you for your foresight.

—Jean Holmes, Historian

Action Committee Report for 2003-2004

Ohlone College Issues: A new president has been installed at Ohlone, Dr. Doug Treadway. The committee meetings that were initiated were discontinued. The Board and the City of Newark dropped their idea of a joint library on the new Newark campus. The Student Center on the Fremont campus was put on hold until the District updates its Master Plan. The Board met with the Fremont Council about a plan for a commercial and residential development along Mission Blvd. The Board also met with the Fremont Council and the Fremont School Board. The Student Services Building is now being planned at another spot on the Ohlone Fremont campus. We had an observer at most Ohlone Board meetings, and our president presented testimony several times during the year.

Washington Hospital: The Washington Hospital Board is taping their Board meetings and leaving a copy in Washington West. How many people in a month could check out the tape and view it? Our president has testified several times this year that this arrangement is not acceptable. They should also take their tape to the City of Fremont (and possibly Newark and Union City) to be shown on the city government channels.

Hill Area: Several times this year someone has wanted to build something on the hills above the toe of the hill. Susan Gearhart and other Hill Committee people worked with Fremont staff to work out a compromise. The City of Fremont staff has been working hard this year on a toe-of-the-hill line that can be incorporated into the General Plan. The Board sent a letter to the City Council asking questions about an EIR for the Karipineni development.

Transportation Issues: Don Dillon's study of a transit hub near the Shinn House was incorporated into the Regional Transportation Measure which was on the March ballot and passed. The **Route 84** standoff between Union City and Fremont continued after a compromise plan resulted in too much damage to Union City businesses. We have taken no action on this issue.

Housing: Some members of the Action Committee took part in a series of meetings with Fremont staff to make Churches in the city aware of housing possibilities on their property. We also took part in public meetings for the Maple Street Affordable housing project which will start construction in August of this year and in public meetings for an affordable and market-rate development on the old Patio World property. Fremont staff has been working to implement ideas in the Housing Element including rezoning commercial property so that it can be used for mixed-use commercial/housing. Other changes that have passed the City Council are density bonuses and R-3 housing. The Fremont City Council is looking at Fremont-owned surplus property to sell to raise funds for developing the Central Business District.

March 2 Election Activities: The Committee arranged for letters to the Editor for the Initiatives that LWVC either supported or opposed. Regional Measure 2, Propositions 55-58, the County Measure on Health. We recommended neutral on Union City parcel tax. We circulated petitions for the Budget Accountability Act, prop 56.

Our Democracy, Our Airwaves. We included several articles in our Voter this year.

Cable Program "Voting Matters": The Action Committee has served as the program development committee for our cable program **Voting Matters**. In the past 12 months

we provided programs on the Tri-City Ecology organization, an interview with our new Superintendent John Rieckewald-FUSD for Fremont and a separate program interviewing John Bernard in Newark. "Adult Education" featuring Ron Cass, Director of the Fremont Adult School. Also the Tri-City Homeless Coalition with Louis Chi-coine.

"Increase Bridge Tolls?" Regional Measure 2, guest was Ezra Rapport, consultant to the Ca. State Senate. "Burning Issues" featuring Fremont Fire Chief Willie McDonald and Newark Fire Chief Chris Maxwell. Fremont's "Transfer Station" with Environmental Services staff person Kathy Cote. Also an interview with Douglas Treadway, president of Ohlone College and a look at the Mission Creek and other Creek Cleanups, with Kathy Cote and Val Blakely of Fremont Environmental Services. We prepared for a program on Alameda County Measure A and Union City Measure K but couldn't tape it because we didn't have the correct numbers for our crew.

State Interviews: We arranged the LWVC interviews with State Senator Liz Figueroa and State legislator John Dutra. We continued our interviews of local elected and re-elected officials by speaking with Dominic Dutra and Bob Wasserman.

The Action Committee recommends that the Board authorize a section on our web site listing all the elected and appointed positions that will be open in 2004 and to consider a workshop on "How to Run for Office."

The Action Committee reviewed all the League web sites in the state and decided to put the Action Committee agenda and notes on the LWVFNUC web site.

2004 Candidate Information Booklet

Our successful voter information booklet is being planned for the November election. A committee of eight Leaguers is hard at work laying the groundwork for the publication, and if we get enough candidates to participate, it will go out to approximately 55,000 active registered voters in Fremont.

The booklet is a group candidate effort which the League plans and coordinates because we think it is a great Voter Service Project. It gives candidates a way to reach the voters for a reasonable price. It is also works as campaign finance reform since it levels the playing field for new candidates and those not able to raise large amounts of campaign funds.

Formal invitations to participate in the booklet will be sent after the filing date closes, but now is the time to encourage people to run for office. Help us get the word out. If you want to know more, communicate with Marilyn Singer at singer756@aol.com

---Miriam Keller, Action Committee Chair

VOTER REPORT

The *Voter* was published ten times. It contained a President's Message, Board Briefs, news and events of our League, a mission statement, a non-partisan statement, committee reports, a calendar, a thank you to our sponsors, notebook pages on current issues, an invitation to join our League, Welcome New Members, corrections to our roster and a Program announcement. One issue contained the "Call to the Annual Meeting". The *Voter* is entered on our Website.

---Vesta Wilson, Voter Editor

TREASURER'S REPORT

Again we have had a very successful year. We can thank our League members and corporate donors, such as the Fremont Bank, and Dale Hardware for their financial support. We also received \$2500.00 as our share of the proceeds from the LWVC Convention that took place a year ago. This was a one-time windfall and is not expected to be a recurring source of revenue. If you look at the pie charts, you can see that we will end the year with over \$14,000 in revenues, a little under \$13,000 in expenses, and a \$1300 surplus. If it weren't for the LWVC Convention proceeds, we would have a deficit of approximately the same amount. Our largest source of revenue is membership dues, but our largest expense is PMP payments to LWVUS, LWVC and LWVBA. Next year's LWVC PMP will increase by \$2.00. This means all but a dollar or two of the \$50.00 membership fee will go to the US, State, and Bay Area Leagues. Fundraising will be a very important source of revenue to continue our activities. As of the end of May we have a little over \$10,000 in the bank, \$6,000 in CD's and \$1000 in the Ed Fund. This adds up about \$17,000 in cash.

After 6 years as Treasurer, I thought it is time for some "new blood" in our organization. Catherine Manapour will assume the responsibilities as Treasurer at the start of our 2004-2005 fiscal year that is July 1st.

---Peter Starr, Treas-

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

As Administrative VP I seek donations and help fundraise so that we can purchase Pros and Cons, print and mail the Voter, distribute Facts for Voters, print the Member Directory and Information Handbook, and finance the various activities we do. This past year we raised money by various members volunteering to work at the election polling places in both the recall and primary elections. We also were paid to assist the Registrar of Voters after closing time on election

days. I urge members who have not had the experience of working on election day, to consider doing so in November. We have many who work repeatedly, as it is such an amazing experience.

Thanks to the generosity of Holly Bell Walter, we received donations for the two Weekenders fashion parties she hosted in Fall and Spring. She also allowed us to hold a successful yard sale at her home. These are fast becoming "annual events".

Albertson's and Safeway scrip program brought in money to our treasury. I urge everyone to sign up for this very easy way to earn money. Thanks to everyone for remembering to scan.

Fremont Bank, Dale Hardware, Well Chosen Words, Office Max, and Valencia Ranch made donations this year, and we are very grateful to these corporate sponsors. We are lucky to live in a community which supports our work.

A major part of our revenue comes from dues and individual donations directly to the League treasury or to the tax deductible Education Fund. We had a growing number of individual contributors this year, and we sincerely thank each one of you.

My job also includes answering the LWVFNUC phone line. We get many calls during election months. As we become widely known, we are receiving more queries and requests for assistance I also collect the mail from our post office box and deliver it to the appropriate person.

PROGRAM REPORT

The following programs were presented at League Unit Meetings:

September 2003 Peter Schrag: "State of the State" at St. James Episcopal Church

September 2003 "Building Community Through the (news) Media" at Fremont Main Library

October 2003 Jan Perkins: Fremont City Manager and Dave Millican, Budget Director at City Hall

November 2003 "No Child Left Behind": Pat Hoke (Newark) ; Jessica Zektser (Fremont Testing), Juan Espinosa (Fremont NCLB), Greg Bonaccorsi (Fremont Teachers' Union) at St. James Episcopal Church.

January 2004 Ezra Rapport (Senator Don Perata's staff) "Measure 2, Bay area Transportation" at Bowling Alley behind Comcast

February 2004: Candidates Night TV at Comcast Studios, Fremont

March 2004 "Understanding the Homeless", Louis Chicoine, Executive Director of the Tri-City Homeless Coalition., St. James Presbyterian Church. Discussion of homeless people situation.

April 2004: Mike Sellors, National Audubon Society on rehabilitation of wetlands in the present salt ponds. At Kisdango Rox Center., Fremont

May 2004 Dr. James Mittelberger, President of Alameda County. Medical Center Staff. Status of Public Health System in Alameda County. at Fremont Main Library.

June 2004 Gus Morrison, mayor of Fremont Annual Meeting at El Patio restaurant

— -Ken Ballard, Program V.P..

PUBLICITY REPORT

The highlight for LWVFNUC public relations activity was the Media Forum in September where we had a good turn out (75 people) and engaged local media in a discourse on journalism and media coverage. John McManus from Grade the News moderated and we had representatives from the Argus, Sing Tao Daily, Host LIVE 105 and KLIV. Overall, we had good cooperation from the local media, especially with the Argus, with respect to publicity. Recently, however, the Argus seems to have lost staff so we just get in the calendar rather than an article. The San Jose Mercury News did not cover even one of our events though we have been sending them press releases. The San Jose Mercury News also did not participate in our media forum. Fortunately, we have increased our coverage with Tri-City Voice. The Director of Publicity represented the League at various community events including the following: (and also got other League members to go when possible)

1. Two town hall meetings by NBC 11
- 2 Fremont Community Forum by the East Bay Community Foundation and the City of Fremont.
3. Silicon Valley Reads - panel discussion on Fahrenheit 451.

League also re-established contact with the Fremont Chamber of Commerce and we may hold joint events if appropriate in the future.
—Syeda Yunus, Publicity Director

WEBMASTER'S REPORT

We are currently averaging about 2000 "hits" per month for a yearly total of 24,000. Our provider of web hosting service, Internet Magic in Santa Rosa, has treated us well and has not raised their fees.

We started offering the VOTER electronically this year. We currently have about 20 members who receive their VOTER in living color from our web site instead of "snailmail".

For the past three years, our web site has expanded and has become fairly large. To insure continuity in case something happens to me, Jack Keller is assisting me as backup Webmaster.
—Peter Starr, Webmaster

ADD THIS TO YOUR CALENDAR:

2004 LWVC Regional Workshop date at Agilent Technologies in Santa Clara, on Saturday, September 18 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

More information later on this workshop, and the Northern Regional Workshop. I appreciate your help in getting this information to your Leagues.

Thanks,
Crownie Billik, Northern California LWVC MTA Coordinator
Crownie@billik.com

2004 CANDIDATE INFORMATION BOOKLET

Our successful voter information booklet is being planned for the November election. A committee of eight Leaguers is hard at work laying the groundwork for the publication, and if we get enough candidates to participate, it will go out to approximately 55,000 active registered voters in Fremont.

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Formal invitations to participate in the booklet will be sent after the filing date closes, but now is the time to encourage people to run for office. Help us get the word out. If you want to know more, communicate with Marilyn Singer at singer756@aol.com. —Marilyn Singer

KAY J. MAXWELL RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**Convention Delegates Celebrate League's Accomplishments, Debate Issues**

WASHINGTON, DC— The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) held its 46th biennial national convention this week at the Washington Hilton hotel. More than seven hundred delegates from 47 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands, attended. The four-day gathering gave League members the opportunity to celebrate the League's accomplishments on civic engagement, campaign finance and election reform and to discuss important policy issues.

"This Convention proved that the League remains a vibrant, grassroots organization," stated Kay J. Maxwell, newly re-elected LWVUS president. "We debated many of the critical issues facing citizens across the nation, including civil liberties, the death penalty, the ERA, No Child Left Behind and electronic voting. As is the League's long and storied tradition, a variety of thoughtful perspectives were expressed through dialogue and debate," Maxwell added.

The Pew Partnership for Civic Change, a national civic research organization, presented the League with their 2004 Civic Change Award. This is the first time that an organization, rather than an individual, received the award. In making the announcement, Alma Powell, Pew Partnership's national advisory board chair and a past recipient, said, "The League of Women Voters has made this country better for more than eight decades ... Its voice of wisdom and reason has raised the level of our civic conversations and given future generations the tools to create a better America."

Additional highlights of the convention included a panel discussion on "Balancing Civil Liberties and Homeland Security in a Post-September 11th Age," featuring representatives from the 9/11 Commission, Georgetown University Law Center, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Constitution Project; remarks by U.S. Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and an enthusiastic banquet address by famed White House correspondent Helen Thomas.

Delegates voted to adopt the FY2004-2005 LWVUS budget and elected a new Board of Directors. Attendees also set the LWVUS program agenda for the next two years, voting to revise the League's stance on voting machines and making the protection of civil liberties a priority for the national organization.

Complete reports of convention action are available in the member's section of the Web site at <http://interactive.lwv.org/Convention/ConventionList.cfm?c=99>.

The League is looking for people to join the Development Committee. It meets just once or twice a year to plan and strategize how we will meet our financial goals. We plan the coming year fund/fun raisers etc. If interested please mark down on your calendar, August 18th @ 2:00 p.m at Kay's house, 45 Zacate Pl.
—Kay Emanule, Development Director

*LWVFNUC Voter
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 year by the League of Women
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 of Fremont, Newark and Union
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 The LWVFNUC storage office
 address is:
 4368 Enterprise St., off Grim-
 mer, near Automall.
 Materials are available 7:30
 AM to 5:00 PM with permis-
 sion from a board member*

Many, many thanks to our Corporate Sponsors:

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Mission Statement

*The League of Women Voters of
 Fremont, Newark, and Union
 City, a nonpartisan political or-
 ganization, encourages the in-
 formed and active participation of
 citizens in government, works to
 increase understanding of major
 public policy issues, and influ-
 ences public policy through edu-
 cation and advocacy*

Visit our Website:

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

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 LWVFNUC _____ 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: 657-3422-crosbieclan@comcast.com

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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WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Tune in to watch Syeda Yunus interview John McManus of "Grade the News"

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, 9:30 PM.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[Http://www. Lwvfnuc.org](http://www.Lwvfnuc.org)

Peter Starr, Webmaster
Jack Keller, Backup

CALENDAR

Wed., Aug. 18	Development Committee	2: PM	
Sat., Aug 21	LWVFNUC board meeting	7:15	Kay Emanuele's home
Thurs., Sept 2	LWVFNUC board meeting	7:15	Mary Miller's home
Sat., Sept. 18	LWV Regional Training Workshop		Santa Clara
Mon., Sept 20	Kick Off Meeting	7:00 pm	TBA
Sat., Nov. 2	LWVBA—Know your Bay Area Day	9:30 am	Sausalito
Mon., Nov. 8	Unit Meeting:Update on Education Position	TBA	TBA
Mon., Nov. 15	Consensus Meeting on Education Update	TBA	TBA