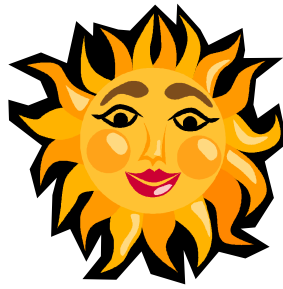


Voter

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



ANNUAL REPORTS

And a few other articles

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Fellow Leaguers:

We are right smack in mid-Summer and with several significant items to report from the May voter. We had the LWV national convention in Portland in mid-June to which I was a delegate and we had visiting delegate, Beverly King. I will report on that in a separate article in this issue. We held our annual meeting on June 7th, highlights are summarized below. And we held our annual retreat on July 12th in our conference room of our new office on Country drive. Miriam Keller hosted the July 11th evening pot-luck in her home and our thanks to her for her hospitality.

Our annual retreat provides a venue for Board and off Board members to connect, brainstorm and plan for the year ahead. This year, we reflected on why we joined the League and why we continue as Leaguers; we found that all of us had a deep commitment to League principles, holding government accountable and civic engagement. We also thought about the "human side" of the League and how leaguers are often supportive during personal crises. So during the retreat, we worked on goals to continue to make LWV – and specifically LWVFNUC – a vibrant community organization.

We utilized the framework provided by LWVC for meeting the challenge, a distinction that we achieved in the last fiscal year and a half. The framework has eight main categories: membership, leadership training, communications/visibility, inter-community development, citizen education, voter service, action and development (fundraising). We set goals in each of these categories as well as in the upcoming Program for the year ahead. We plan to continue to grow our membership through providing strong community forums and doing outreach through our speakers' bureau. Alex Starr, Leadership Trainer, reminded us that we are all ambassadors for the League and that we are all responsible for carrying the message of the League of Women Voters to our community at large. We plan to review our fundraising strategy as this is a strong component in ensuring LWVFNUC's ongoing viability. Therefore, we ask each one of you to contribute, either in time, funds or input, towards meeting the League's goals. Only by working together can we succeed.

With best regards,

Syeda R Yunus

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the June 7th Annual Meeting of the Members: we

- Were privileged to hear from retiring superintendent of Fremont Unified School District, Doug Gephardt.
- Approved the bylaws amendment providing new members to join in February and obtain membership for both the current and the next fiscal year.
- Approved an increase in membership dues. We are still in the mid-range of what the other League's charge.
- Approved our existing principles and program for the year ahead.
- Approved an increase in dues for members and households .



**ACTION ANNUAL REPORT FOR
2007– 2008**

Action Committee does as its name implies; we take action, and we do it with study, thought and vigor. It is done in the name of the League and with the Board's approval. You as members help us out by stepping up to read testimony and act in the public arena by participating in Voting Matters and responding to requests for help when asked by the E-Tree.

The members of the Action committee are: Syeda Yunus, Alex Starr, Miriam Keller, Jean Holmes, Kay Emanuele, Sam Neeman, Ken Ballard, John Smith, Nina Moore, Marilyn Singer and Sets Amann. All members of the League are welcome at our meetings: all League meetings are always open to all of you. Come visit us anytime, and join us if you want to be part of the game. We work hard, but it is always interesting and fun.

Action members are "specialists" which means that each of us chooses an area of work to focus on, and then we concentrate on it. As time goes by, the person's body of knowledge grows and that person becomes a source of information to the rest of the committee. The person directs the action in their area but is never left to do it alone since the rest of the members learn from the specialist and assist when needed. Action is a very cooperative group.

The specialists are:

Health Care: Syeda Yunus
Housing: Miriam Keller
Alameda County: Syeda
Transportation: Alex Starr and Sets Amann
Environment: open
Community Colleges: Ken Ballard
Voting Matters: Kay Emanuele
Documentation: Sam Neeman
Finance: Jean Holmes
Open Government: Alex Starr
County Measure A: Ken Ballard
FUSD consultant: Nina Moore
Observers: open
State and National Action Chair: Sets Amann

Off Action Committees are Ken Ballard on the FUSD Bond Oversight Committee, Bob Monkman on the FUSD Bond Oversight Committee, Syeda Yunus on the FUSD Bond Oversight Committee, Ken Ballard on the County Measure A Oversight Committee and Bob Monkman as chair of the Library Commission. Alex Starr, Marilyn Singer and Helen Boyer work as a sub-committee on Safe School issues. Muriel Nolan is on the Environmental Services Advisory Commission.

The Observer Corps is part of the Action Committee and reports electronically to

both Action and the Board. All reports go to the webmaster who posts them on the website so all members can follow what is going on with the observed boards and commissions. The following are our observers:

Washington Hospital - Pat Lewis
USD - Ellen Culver
Fremont Council, Ohlone - Miriam Keller
Ohlone - Joanne Landers
EBRPD - Julice Winters
Dumbarton Rail - Alex Starr and Sets Amann
FUSD - Helen Boyer, Miriam Keller

There are many other boards and commissions that should be observed, so if you have time to attend one of them or watch one on cable, please let us know. You will be much appreciated, and the League will be more informed because of your input.

Voting Matters, our monthly cable program, is produced by Kay Emanuele and directed by John Smith. Kay has arranged several training sessions so the cable crew has grown. Running a camera, handling the graphics or working in the control room are all exciting and interesting. The crew is: Kay, John, Alex Starr, Miriam Keller, Ann Halligan, Carolyn Hedgecock, Sam Neeman, John Matthews, Andrea Schacter, and Alice Johnson. Kay is always interested in adding more members to the crew so if you want to be part of this monthly endeavor, call her, and she will welcome you to the group.

The programs for the last fiscal year:

June- Fremont Fire Department
July - State League Health Care Tape/ Fremont's Senior Services
August - Juvenile Health Services- Alameda County
Sept. - Fremont's Family Resource Center
Oct.-Our League's 50th Birthday
Nov.- Fremont's General Plan
Dec. - Ohlone's Newark Campus
Jan.- State Initiatives
Feb.- Water Issues
March- Interview with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters
April - FUSD Bond Advisory Commission
May- Propositions 98 and 99
June - Exit Interview with Dr. Treadway- Ohlone

During the year, the committee learned more about two large development proposals, Patterson Ranch and the A's Ballpark village. We are learning more about affordable housing and redevelopment

funds. We lobbied the Ohlone Board to change their system of numbered seats, but were unsuccessful in getting them to make changes. We did Legislative interviews with Alberto Toricco and Ellen Corbett. We collected signatures for the Redistricting proposal on the June ballot. Our open government specialist, Alex Starr, coordinated a forum on How to Run for Public Office. We lobbied FUSD about implementing SB 537, the anti-harassment legislation which has been mandated.

This next year will find us monitoring development proposals, commenting on raising the cap on redevelopment funds in Fremont and possibly other cities, encouraging affordable housing by networking with other interested groups, learning how the State Budget will affect our cities, working on universal health care, cooperating to put on a greenhouse gas forum, writing the scripts for Voting Matters, and responding to other issues if our League positions support our stands.

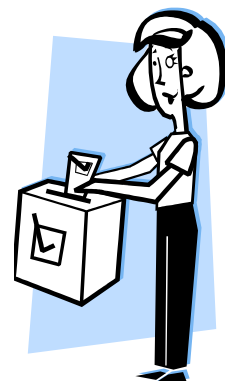
We would like to add at least two more dynamic members to our committee. Does that sound like YOU? If you don't feel dynamic, you will be mentored until you blossom into a dynamo- that's an energetic and forceful person. We are waiting for your call !!!!!

—Marilyn Singer
Outgoing Action Chair

VOTER SERVICE

We thought that this League year was going to be a light work one. We had only one candidate forum to organize—the Newark City Council race. But there were three elections during this League year, November, February and June so we filled the Registrar of Voter boxes and distributed LWVC's Pros and Cons three times this year. There were three sets of initiatives that our speakers' bureau studied and explained to various audiences. Many thanks to all those who helped.

—Miriam Keller



TREASURER'S REPORT

We have about \$4700.00 in our bank account, \$1600.00 in our Ed Fund Account, and almost \$21,000 in our Fremont Bank CD. These items make up our assets of \$27,000. We show an approximate \$2500 deficit so far this year. The return on our CD has been rather disappointing due to the fall in Interest Rates.

Most of our income for the year has come from the collection of dues and most of our expense was PMP. PMP has been creeping upward year after year to the point where it would exceed the dues we receive without a change. At the annual meeting on June 7, 2008, the membership passed a dues increase to \$60 for an individual and \$90 for a household. This should mitigate this problem.

A new source of revenue is coming from administering elections for Home Owner Associations which brought in almost as much money as our member donations.

Peter Starr
Treasurer

WEBMASTER'S REPORT

We find that usage of our web site has been fairly active this past year with approximately 10,000 hits per month.

Last fall we made a major revision to our web site with the objective to make it easier to find things. We received many good ideas from our members and other League web sites that we were able to use.

A little over a month ago, we added a new feature to our web site which enables our members and supporters to make donations online and pay with either a credit card or a check. We hope this convenience will stimulate our fund raising efforts. You can also go online and renew your membership with a credit card. You still can pay by check if you prefer.

We have also added tools for the Board to use regarding our membership. These tools involve a new online database containing membership information accessed through a secure web site.

We are always looking for ways to improve our web site and welcome any suggestions that you might have.

Peter Starr
Webmaster

VOTER REPORT

The Voter was published 10 times. All issues contained a President's Message, Board Briefs, news and events of our League, news of other Leagues or events of interest to our League, a mission statement, a non-partisan statement, committee reports, and invitation to join the League and a calendar. Some issues contained a thank you to our sponsors, notebook pages on current issues, welcome to new members, upcoming local, regional, state and national League events. Some issues contained a time-line of events leading to women's right to vote. One issue contained the "Call to the Annual Meeting". *The Voter* is on our website.

—Vesta Wilson
Voter Editor

PUBLICITY REPORT

Sent notices of all League programs and events to the Argus

—John Smith

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE
REPORT**

The Education Committee is both an active and resource committee, dedicated to studying education issues and to providing information to the public.

We are presently studying "Students First", the March Report of the Governors Committee on Education Excellence.

We observe FUSD Board Meetings.

We follow the Tri-Cities' API scores and budgets.

We follow EdSource and attend their regular forums.

We have studied:

- Proposition 98 Education Funding

- No Child Left Behind
- The 2002 Master Plan for Education
- California Community Colleges (a LWVC study)
- Curriculum issues
- State standards, math, science
- Parental Involvement
- Upcoming education legislation
- Charter Schools
- National Assessment of Education Progress

We have presented programs in public forums

- Parental Involvement
- LWVC's update on Education Policy
- Regional Occupation Project (ROP)
- No Child Left Behind

We conducted a successful contest

about "YVote"? in which High School students submitted media presentations to convince young people to vote.

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE
REPORT**

The year began in July with a program "Health Care Now" featuring state assemblyman Alberto Torrico.

The Annual Kickoff was held in September. The subject was immigration. Speakers were:

Larry Crider, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service

Stephen Leavey, Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy

Jennifer Lee, Immigration Rights Clinic, Stanford Law School

Katherine Corcoran, U.C. Graduate

School of Journalism

In October we celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a gala event at the Flamingo Palace

November was the month for our consensus meetings on Immigration

Our annual holiday potluck in December was followed by our program-planning meeting.

January the League sponsored a pros and cons meeting on local ballot issues.

California Water Issues was the subject of a February forum co-sponsored with the Tri-City Ecology Center and the Alameda County Library. Our speakers were:

Paul Piraino, Alameda County Water District

Tim Quinn, Association of California Water Agencies.

In March the focus was on The ABCs of Campaigns, a workshop for interested candidates and others.

The winners of the "Y Vote" competition were honored at the April meeting.

We toured the Fremont Transfer Station in May, followed by lunch.

The year closed with our Annual Meeting at Sizzler Restaurant in Newark on June 7

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of the June Annual Meeting, we have 147 members, a 9% increase.

OUR BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE—A NATURAL RESOURCES PERSPECTIVE

“Our Bridge to the Future” was the theme for the 2008 LWVC Leadership Council. League members met for a Q & A session on environmental issues to look at what resources, issues and trends will most affect local Leagues and the public during 2008-2009. The over-arching environmental issues of concern that impact ever-morphing regions and economies were water, climate change, and AB 32 implementation. During the Q & A several concepts emerged:

- Consistency of the message. Depending on the issue, local League environmental responses throughout California can be quite different due to location, local studies and positions, general timing or financial condition. Differences may be understood by members but make it harder to coordinate when a state-wide response is needed.
- “Connecting the dots” when there is crossover between program areas. For instance, between social policy and natural resources, or when there is a nexus between natural resources positions such as land use and transportation, or water and energy.
- Understanding the effect of development and growth on local government funding and finances. The factors here are the uncertainty of the state budget as well as regional decisions by state agencies that can affect several Leagues at a time.

In addition, some specific steps were mentioned as possible means to achieve consistency, connection, and understanding on natural resources related concerns. *These remain unvetted ideas at present and discussion is ongoing.*

- Consider developing “model” positions for other local Leagues to consider.
 - Develop alliances or collaborations with other nonprofits to maximize LWVC resources, i.e., Water Education Foundation.
 - Consider online environmental leadership training.
 - To facilitate direct access to local League Natural Resources directors (or whoever handles their environmental issues), create/publish an all-League environmental contact list.
- LWVC

VIEW SMART VOTER ON CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE DEVICES

A slimmed-down version of Smart Voter is now available to voters who are not near a computer! Click on the menu item titled “Mobile/PDA Friendly” near the top of the Smart Voter home page, and all of our Web content after that will be delivered in a single column without images. The “thin” Smart Voter is perfect for viewing on most cell phones, PDAs or other small-screen devices that can access the Web. Let your members and friends who are “on the go” know that they can peruse their own ballot choices while they are on the bus or in a café. Voters who step out on Election Day and can’t remember their polling place can use their cell phone and Smart Voter to zero in on the right location!

—LWVC

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LWVUS CONVENTION:

We had another exciting, action packed, full agenda LWVUS convention in Portland, Oregon. I and Bev King, who is actually from the Santa Barbara League, were delegates from LWVFNUC. It is a League custom to share unfilled delegate spots with other leaguers who cover their own costs. Bev did a fabulous job as a delegate and also provided a written report to our Board summarizing her experience. We will be posting hers and my detailed report on our website.

Meanwhile here are the highlights:

The convention body voted to approve various bylaw changes: approve state leagues to have an one additional delegate for 100 members at large; allows special meetings via electronic means for the national board; allows the LWVUS board to propose concurrence and reduced nominating committee from 7 members to 5.

Adopted modified convention rule 10.1 to have a longer span of review for resolutions.

Adopted the following National Program areas: Healthcare, Global Climate change also a very specific study of the advisability of using the National Popular Voter compact among the states as a method for election the president.

Increased PMP to \$28 per member for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and \$29.20 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

The redistricting concurrence proposed by the Leagues of Fairfax, Virginia and Oregon, did not pass.

ACTIVIST TRAINING AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

The Alameda County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (ACCADP) held its first ever Activists Training on Saturday, June 7 and the event was an immense success.

Over 55 activists participated in the training, which was led by coalition members. Participants included League members from Alameda, Fremont, and Oakland.

Training participants ranged from old hands to the newly initiated. Everyone came away better-equipped to advocate for alternatives to the death penalty. One participant remarked, "I was planning to leave at lunch, but you could not have dragged me out of there!"

The full day of activities began with an introduction to the facts about use of the death penalty in Alameda County and an overview of the Coalition's strategy for ending the death penalty in the county.

This was followed by communications workshops, where activists practiced responding to tough questions and making effective arguments.

Afternoon break-out sessions focused on lobbying, passing organizational resolutions, blogging and writing letters to the editor.

Well-attended lunchtime presentations were given by Judy Kerr from California Crime Victims for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and Aaron Owens, who was wrongfully convicted of two 1st degree murders in Alameda County in 1973.

The turnout at the training was testament to the growing momentum of the movement to end the death penalty in California. Almost all training participants pledged to maintain this momentum by signing up for the Coalition's lobbying team, letter-writing team or speaker's bureau.

ACCADP brings together anti-death penalty activists from several organizations, including the ACLU, Amnesty International, Bay Association of the United Church of Christ, CA People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty, Campaign to End the Death Penalty, Death Penalty Focus, Kehilla Community Synagogue, League of Women Voters of Alameda County, Progressive Jewish Alliance and Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club.

ACCADP was officially formed in February of 2008, with the goal of ending the death penalty in Alameda County.

For additional information, or to get involved in the fight to end the death penalty, please contact Marion Taylor, Liaison from the League of Women Voters of Alameda County to the coalition,

510-532-5797, mariontaylor@mac.com

SIGN UP FOR E-NEWSLETTERS

Please go to <http://www.lwvc.org> to click the "Subscribe to E-News" button on the left. The site looks up your e-mail, then helps create an account or logs into an existing account where you can pick your favorite newsletters and/or action alerts. This site lists only public newsletters, so the LWVC Leaders UPDATE is not an option—you must contact lwvc@lwvc.org if you want this internal, confidential UPDATE e-mail.

—LWVC

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 - \$60 _____ Household - \$90 _____
 Donate to LWVNUC \$ _____ Donate to Ed. Fund \$ _____ Total enclosed \$ _____
 Name(s) _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____ Transfer
 from _____



Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to L.W.V. Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, or for confidential financial dues assistance, please contact: 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 of citizens 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

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

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 Treasurer: Peter Starr
 Editor: Vesta Wilson
 Office Hours:

The LWVFNUC office address is:
 3375 Country Drive
 Fremont, CA

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

THE SUFFRAGIST MOVEMENT—an ongoing series...

1913 Suffragist Alice Paul organizes 8,000 women for a parade through Washington. She becomes the leader of the Congressional Union (CU), a militant branch of the National American Association.

Kate Gordon organizes the Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference where suffragists plan to lobby state legislatures for laws that enfranchise white women only.

Illinois grants women a new form of partial suffrage by allowing them to vote only in presidential elections.

1914 The Senate votes on the "Susan B. Anthony" amendment, but it does not pass.

Nevada and Montana enfranchise women

The CU alienates leaders of the National American Association by campaigning against pro-suffrage Democrats in the congressional elections.

1915 Anna Howard Shaw's tactical conservatism culminates in a loss of support from the National American members. She resigns and Catt replaces her as president.

1916 Woodrow Wilson promises that the Democratic Party Platform will endorse suffrage. Meanwhile, the CU transforms itself into the National Woman's Party. Montana elects suffragist Jeanette Rankin to the House of Representatives.

1917 Police begin arresting women who are picketing outside the White House. Some, including Paul and Lucy Burns go on a hunger strike while in jail. Their militancy earns them sympathy from some quarters and disdain from others. The U.S. enters World War I. Under the leadership of Catt, the National American Association aligns itself with the war effort in order to gain support for women's suffrage.



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WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Tune in to watch Ann Crosbie, host. "Topic Y Vote?" Contest winners

Fremont, Channel 29, every Wednesday at 7:30 PM

Newark, Channel 6, every Thursday at 7 PM

Union City, Channel 15, every Thursday at 9:30 PM

Hayward, Channel 28, every Monday at 9:30 PM

Visit our website:
<http://www.lwvfnc.org>
and Smart Voter
www.smartvoter.org

Go online at LWVFNUC.ORG and join or renew your membership or make a donation. You can pay with your credit card.

CALENDAR

Thurs, July 24	Action Committee	12:30 PM Bag lunch	Kay Emanuele's home
Wed., Aug. 20	Cable Taping	2:00 pm	Comcast Studios
Thurs., Aug 21	LWVNUC Board Meeting	7:15 PM	League Office
Thurs., Aug. 28	Women's Equality Day		