

2010 President 's Annual Report



This past year our League featured two programs on the possibilities of reforming the California Constitution. The second program held at Ohlone 's Newark campus featured our three mayors and also the beautiful campus itself. Ken Ballard did a great job as Program V.P. getting us good speakers. We also followed the health care reform debate

holding our own forum and moderating another one. Several of your board members used webinars for training in development techniques and getting out our message to the public. That seems to be a trend for the future. It will save time and money and will be especially effective if focused on League activities.

Action committee efforts focused on affordable housing, raising the redevelopment fund ceiling, and a continued watch on school and community college issues. Our development committee, led by Sandi Pantages, tried fund raising via the Internet for the first time in honor of the 90th. Speaking of the 90th, Martha Crowe and Andrea Schacter organized a wonderful evening for us topped of with a viewing of *Iron Jawed Angels*.

Our new VOTER editor Miriam Keller slipped right into the slot and with Vesta 's assistance produced a meaty VOTER for us. In case you didn 't know, many League leaders statewide read our VOTER for its hefty content! I often receive a compliment on behalf of Miriam for the interesting content we have.

Another leader, Andrea Schacter, took over Action Committee and ran with it. Our meetings were full of content but we never took ourselves too seriously. With skill Andrea guided us to present testimony, write letters and interview officials throughout the year. Carolyn Hedgecock wrote up board minutes that captured the essence of what happened without embellishment. We often have to refer to a previous meeting 's minutes and hers were impeccable. Peter Starr, Carolyn 's bookkeeper, gave us monthly detailed reports on our financial status.

Sets Amann and Marilyn Singer were a dynamic duo running Voter Service. One kept track of all of our voter affidavit distribution sites and the other organized forums that ran like clockwork. As membership chair Sarabjit Cheema found new members and was a wonderful representative of our League wherever she went.

If it were not for John Landers and his capable hospitality leadership, we would not have been as cordial to one another at meetings. John organized beverages to complement the snacks we brought to our board meetings. Board meetings without coffee or tea are not pleasant!!

Our historian Martha Crowe grew into her job by refiling many materials that were used for the 90th celebration and is looking forward to this next year. Three of our off board members, Kay Emanuele, who distributes the VOTER, John Smith who is in charge of publicity, and Jean Holmes who collects and distributes the mail and the phone calls we receive, are invaluable members of our team. Jean also heads up the HOA committee with professionalism and diplomacy. Sam Neeman has found her métier as our Nominating chair. She is relentless in finding just the right person for the job.

Often when someone mentions that the "team" did a good job it doesn 't really resonate with me. However, our League leadership team has been outstanding this year and for many years past. We are very lucky. The last "team" member I want to thank is Jane Mueller. Jane has been my rock and my source of wisdom and strength this year. I will miss her mightily next year.

Alex Starr

2010 Voter Service Annual Report

Voter service is using media access to reach voters: Videos available on: Candidates Forum on District 2 Board supervisors Nancy O'Malley, Alameda County District Attorney and Pros and Cons for June Election to be down loaded on (PDF)

Organized Candidates Joint Forum with Eden LWV and LWVFNUC on Supervisors Candidates and Hayward City Council Election on April 15, 2010.

Organized Pros and Cons by League members and Advocacy speaker for Prop 15 on May 17, 2010.

Distributed Easy Voters Guide to residents of Fremont, Newark, Union City (March -June, 2010)

Distributed Affidavits to sites in Fremont, Newark, Union City (July 2009-June 2010)

Reported and tracked Affidavits delivery to Google spreadsheet documents for viewing by Alameda County ROV and AC LWV.

Since the loss of use at Comcast, Marilyn Singer & Kay Emanuel are working with Walter Garcia of Fremont about possibility of using ED Channel.

Submitted by Sets Amann and Marilyn Singer

2010 Action Committee Annual Report

As my year serving as Action Committee chair draws to a close, I want to acknowledge all of the members for their dedication to furthering the mission of our League. And I want to especially thank them for helping me learn about the job and furthering my interest in the League.

During the year, we increased our knowledge of and responded to issues in municipal government, housing, environment, education, transportation, health care, and the California state budget.

Highlights of the year included:

- Testimony given on the Fremont housing element. This lead to an invitation to speak at the Besaro Mobile Home Park homeowners ' association during their fight to stop the park owner 's request for a major rent increase.
- Alex moderated a very well received forum on Health Care at an interesting venue— Paddy 's Coffee House.
- After League complaints, Ohlone College board meetings on cable are now broadcast with higher video and audio quality. Additionally, Ohlone finally eliminated numbered seats for board positions.
- Action members continued to observe and maintain interest in FUSD 's Health and Sex Education Advisory committee.
- We interviewed the following public officials:
 - o Suzanne Chan (Fremont City Councilmember)
 - o Teresa Cox (Ohlone Trustee)
 - o Greg Bonaccorsi (Ohlone Trustee)
 - o Lili Mei (Fremont Board of Education)
 - o Bryan Gebhardt (Fremont Board of Education
 - o Jeff Davis (Transit District Board)

Our one big disappointment of the year is the loss of our cable television show, Voting Matters. Although we anticipated a partnership with the Chabot College broadcasting department, it did not materialize. In the coming year, we will explore alternatives, and may even enter the You Tube environment to broadcast our programs to the general public.

Congratulations to Miriam Keller, who has been appointed Housing Director for the Bay Area League.

In the coming year, your Action Committee will continue to monitor and respond to issues that are important to our League. If you would like to serve on the Committee or serve as an observer of public meetings, please contact Alex Starr, or any other Action member.

League of Women Voters

2010 Fundraising Annual Report

The primary fund appeal in 2009-2010 was via email to reach non-members and via the *Voter* and the email tree to reach members. The email appeal was a Valentine message to coordinate with the League 's 90th birthday. The appeal went out to about 75 people via an email marketing service called Constant Contact; we took advantage of a free 3 month trial. Donors of \$90 or more were listed in the *Voter* and we had 6 of those donors, who were mostly LWVFNUC members.

From our 2009 fund appeal, we had 5 *Voter* sponsors (\$150 each), whose names were listed in the *Voter* for 6 months. Another outcome of the 2009 fund appeal was the interest of Cargill to be an Easy Voter Guide sponsor (\$250) which they did in 2010 for the June 2010 election.

I was able to participate in a webinar – an e-clinic on the subject of Online Fundraising Bootcamp – sponsored by the LWV California. It was quite interesting, and it was from that e-clinic that the impetus for the Constant Contact email fund appeal came.

We developed and completed the policy and procedures for Memorial Contributions, using information from the LWV in Los Angeles, after the passing of Jane Mueller 's mother.

I applied for a Lucky S.H.A.R.E.S. card, but never received a response, even after a follow-up inquiry.

These various fund raising activities have helped raise the awareness of the LWVFNUC, expanded our base of supporters, as well as raised some funds.



2010 Homeowners Association Election Committee Annual Report

California State Civil Code 13xx.03 requires that all Common Interest Developments conduct Election of the Board of Directors and Levy of Assessments by secret mail Ballots which must be overseen by neutral 3rd party Inspectors of Elections.

LWVFNUC has an active committee prepared to serve as those Inspectors.

This is a service to the public and a source of income for our League. In this fiscal year we have conducted two such elections.

In order to be able to increase the number of elections, we need to expand our HOA committee. All interested Leaguers are invited to join. Training is available, guidelines are in print. This is an interesting and very League-like exercise in democracy.

Submitted by Jean Holmes

2010 Historian Annual Report

I met with Alex Starr and Carolyn Hedgecock for basic job information. I have refiled all of the past records that were pulled from the scrapbooks for the 50th anniversary program. I have collected all the past newspaper articles (2007-2009) and placed them by year in a scrapbook which also includes copies of all the Voters.

Submitted by Sandi Pantages

Saturday, August 28: 10 am to 3 pm

LWVC will hold a State League Regional Training at the San Leandro Library. Sessions will include improving communication by using online networks; painless fundraising, how to do effective League Studies and using "hot topic " sessions to educate on the major issues of the day. Cost is \$25 for light breakfast, lunch and handout materials.

LWVC Positions on November Ballot Measures

The League of Women Voters of California has taken stands on six ballot measures appearing on the November 2, 2010 ballot.

Water Bond (Proposition 18): The LWVC opposes The Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010 that was placed on the ballot by the legislature and Governor. While the bond contains funding for water management options that the League favors, such as water conservation, recycling and watershed protection, the overall effect of the measure is to encourage continued reliance on structural water supply solutions such as dams and conveyance that take more water from instream flows.

AB 32 Suspension (Proposition 23): The LWVC strongly supported the enactment of AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The League joins with many others to **oppose** this initiative to suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the state unemployment rate is 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive calendar quarters.

Tax Fairness Act (Proposition 24): Proposition 24 would roll back the corporate tax cuts that were passed in the "Dark of the Night" tax deals of 2008 -09, costing approximately \$1.7 billion per year in revenue to the state. The League <u>supports</u> this measure, believing that the budget crisis cannot be solved by expenditure cuts alone, let alone expenditure cuts combined with tax cuts.

Simple Majority Vote for Budget (Proposition 25): The LWVC supports this measure, which would change the vote required to pass a budget in the state legislature from the current two-thirds to a simple majority. This will give a majority of the legislature the ability to set the priorities for spending and should change the negotiations over the budget to give the minority less of a stranglehold on the process. *** Polluter Protection * (Proposition 26):** This measure would redefine taxes, and therefore require a two-thirds vote on many more government revenue decisions, including what are currently environmental regulatory fees. The League **opposes** this measure, because we feel that all decisions about revenue measures should be made with simple majority votes.

Redistricting

The League is working hard to protect the redistricting reform process adopted by California voters in November 2008. Proposition 11 established a Citizens Redistricting Commission that will redraw maps for the state legislature and Board of Equalization after each census. But there are two proposals on this November 's ballot to change the new process before Californians have a chance to see it fully implemented.

One measure, Proposition 27, would completely eliminate the redistricting commission and return the redistricting authority to the backrooms of the legislature resulting in more gerrymandered districts that serve primarily to help incumbents get reelected. The League **strongly opposes** this measure.

Another measure, Proposition 20, would add the authority for redrawing Congressional districts to the Citizens Redistricting Commission. The League will announce its position on this measure soon.

PMP Increase

At the LWVC Leadership Council in May, as part of the adoption of the LWVC budget for 2010-2011, the Per Member Payment (PMP) was increased by \$1 to \$23. Local leagues may now use education funds to pay up to 25 percent of their PMP.

League of Women Voters

Interview with Representative Alberto Torrico 4/23/10

Each year the State League drafts 4 questions that Local Leagues are supposed to ask their legislators. It is usually in January or February. If you would like to help with an interview next year, contact Miriam Keller. This year 's interview with Representative Alberto Terrico follows.

Interviewers: Ann Crosbie, Sarabjit Cheema, Barbara Friedrich, & Miriam Keller from the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City.

Question 1. Budget Dilemmas.

Rep. Torrico's top priority is Education. He considers education a civil right. His parents immigrated to the U.S., had 4 children, he was the first to attend college. Later went on to law school. He feels that the Legislature, representing their constituents is not committed to Education. California spends more money on the prison system than we do Education. He also thinks that prison reform is needed.

His 2nd priority is reform of the State Government. He would like a majority vote for the budget and revenue increases. He feels that we need to put two billion more dollars in our college system. He has already authored a bill to require oil companies to pay the state a fee for the oil that is taken.

Question 2. The Budget Process

First, he believes that the threshold for passing a budget ought to be a simple majority. Second, he wants term limit reform. He approves of a bill in the legislature that says a legislator could serve 12 years total in any house or houses. It should also state that it is not retroactive. Only new legislators would have the term limit lengthened. Third, he wants public financing of legislators. Right now there are 10 lobbyists for every legislator. The money is overwhelming. Legislators ' campaigns spend lots of money.

Question 3. Constitutional Reform.

1. He thinks we should have term limits as

stated above.

2. He wants campaign finance reform

3. He thinks that legislators should take no gifts. \$0.

4. He agrees that legislators should forfeit per diem for every day beyond the deadline that they haven 't passed the budget.

5. He is for a 2-year budget and a 5 year forecast system.

Question 4. General Question: major issues of the Legislature. Torrico 's priorities.

1. Reform the prison system. Fund and make rehabilitation compulsory. 70% of prisoners on parole go back to prison within 3 years. 60% are illiterate.

2. Bring in new revenues. One could be a tax on extraction of oil. We need to increase financial aid to college students. A few years ago, some group ranked the California college system #1 in the country. This year it was ranked in the 40s. (Or is it 4^{th} ?)

Torrico 's priorities. We need a redistribution of education money so that low income districts get more money.

Tweak Proposition 13. Reassess commercial property periodically. But the new money should not go to the State. It should stay with the local governments and school districts.

The 3 strikes law is an injustice. Should be changed.

We need a State sentencing commission. One criteria for the commission members. They should be problem solvers not ideologues. He would like commissions for prisons, government reform and for tax reform, independent of the legislature, no amendments by the legislature. They would make recommendations, have public hearings, report final recs to the legislature for up or down vote. The prison commission is to counteract the unfairness of variable three strikes sentencing that occurs with the current leeway given to judges. He mentioned drug courts which cut recidivism from 10 to 30% but get cut when there are budget problems. Prop. 36 needs to be tweaked.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY FOR WOMEN by Jennifer Ong

The following article by Eden League member Jennifer Ong is supported by LWVUS positions and principles: Social Policy -- Support of the Equal Rights Amendment (1972). International Relations -- Campaigned for the ratification of CEDAW (2002). Advocated for raising public awareness and increasing political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls—in all parts of the world (2008).

Fact: To this day, we are the only industrialized country to have failed to ratify the United Nations treaty referred to as CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women). Our Senate has not ratified CEDAW, a human rights treaty for women, after at least four attempts going back to President Jimmy Carter. President Carter helped draft the treaty for the United Nations in 1979. The most recent attempt to adopt CEDAW was during President Clinton's administration. Opponents insist on their version of unintended consequences of this treaty on the sanctity of marriage and family. Meanwhile this treaty clearly imposes no enforcements in its articles. Its sole requirement is for ratifying countries to submit regular progress reports on existing forms of discrimination within their nation. CEDAW does NOT require changes to existing laws or the creation of new ones.

CEDAW comprehensively defines women's rights and creates a framework for preventing discrimination against women while identifying clear standards for gender equality. It establishes models for gender



Sphere at the Palais des Nations in Geneva

equality without requirement of an enforcement authority. The CEDAW treaty requires a ratifying country to submit regular progress reports without changes to and creation of new or existing laws. To many, the articles devined in DECAW are at first glance comparatively reducdant to the existing measures that the U.S. Already practices to protect women's rights. For reference, strong opposi-tion to CEDAW identified during its failure in Congressional considerations warn that this treaty creates a mandate of the gender feminist movement's agenda. This treaty has been described as a tool for distorting male and female roles while destroying definitions of traditional family in accordance to what amounts to a federal ERA. Its provision stating the need for equal access to health care, including those related to family planning, has been suspiciously labeled as a step towards supporting abortion.

I recently joined the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women and enthusiastically accepted a position as Chair for the Gender and Racial Equity Committee (GREC). One of my first charges as Chair was to continue the extensive work accomplished by the previous GREC by working towards the adoption of the CEDAW resolution by the current Board of Supervisors of Alameda County, CEDAW's principles have received outright support from many in Alameda County; however, it does quickly evoke a reaction that this is unnecessary in an area that is already sensitive to the articles defined by the treaty. It seems outdated by at least 30 years compared to what has been standard practice in Alameda County. What is the significance then of adopting a CEDAW resolution in Alameda County?

Much like other counties around the country, adoption of this treaty highlights awareness of issues in the treaty that have not received high priority for action such as human trafficking. Highlighting priorities will accomplish relevance of CEDAW's adoption in Alameda County. San Francisco, frustrated by Congress's failure to ratify CEDAW, adopted a local ordinance in 1998 reflecting CEDAW's principles. GREC along with other supportive women's advocacy groups can build from what counties like San Francisco have created: a momentum for formal adoption of this resolution by the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County and the eventual steps leading to further national support. Collaboratively we can shed light upon the need for the United States to combat gender inequality by committing to CEDAW's global effort to comprehensively define women's rights

Continued on page 8.

SEC. 12K.6. SUMMARY OF CEDAW. Continued from page 5

Article 1. Defines discrimination against women as any "distinction, exclusion, or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of marital status, on the basis of equality between men and women, of human rights or fundamental freedom in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field."

Article 2. Mandates concrete steps, implementing laws, policies and practices to eliminate discrimination against women and embody the principle of equality.

Article 3. Requires action in all fields—civil, political, economic, social, and cultural - to advance the human rights of women.

Article 4. Permits affirmative action measures to accelerate equality and eliminate discrimination.

Article 5. Recognizes the role of culture and tradition, and calls for the elimination of sex role stereotyping.

Article 6. Requires suppression of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitutes.

Article 7. Mandates ending discrimination against women in political and public life.

Article 8. Requires action to allow women to represent their governments internationally on an equal basis with men.

Article 9. Mandates that women will have equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality and that of their children.

Article 10. Obligates equal access to all fields of education and the elimination of stereotyped concepts of the roles of men and women.

Article 11. Mandates the end of discrimination in the field of employment and recognizes the right to work as a human right.

Article 12. Requires steps to eliminate discrimination from the field of health care, including access to family planning. If necessary, these services must be free of charge.

Article 13. Requires that women be ensured equal access to family benefits, bank loans, credit, sports and cultural life.

Article 14. Focuses on the particular problems faced by rural women.

Article 15. Guarantees equality before the law and equal access to administer property.

Article 16. Requires steps to ensure equality in marriage and family relations.

Article 17. Calls for the establishment of a committee to evaluate the progress of the implementation of CEDAW.

Article 18-30. Set forth elements of the operation of the treaty. (Formerly Sec. 12K.5; added by Ord. 128-98, App. 4/13/98; renumbered by Ord. 325-00, File No. 001920, App. 12/28/2000).

More Action Taken at LWVUS Convention June 11-15

An increase in Per Member Payments (PMP) was approved, to \$29.70 for FY 2010-2011, and a rate of \$30.00 for FY 2011-2012 (this supports a national budget of nearly \$4M.)

At the Convention the "Making Democracy Work" award was given to LWVC for their efforts and success in passage of Proposition 11, the Citizens Redistricting Commission initiative.

League of Women Voters	Summer 2010			
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				
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: Andrea Schacterschacter@pacbell.net

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.

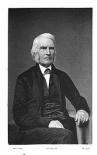
Diversity Policy

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.

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> President: Alex Starr Treasurer: Carolyn Hedgecock Editor: Miriam Keller

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



NOTABLE PEOPLE IN HISTORY

James Mott (1788—1868)

James Mott was a Quaker leader, teacher and merchant as well as an activist for anti-slavery Fames Mott and women's rights.

He married Lucretia Coffin in 1811. They had six children, five of which lived to adulthood. In1882, he began work as a textile merchant in Philadelphia. When his family became members of the Hicksite Quakers, who were against slavery, James switched his business endeavors to woollen textiles which were free of slave labor.

James was an active abolitionist and assisted his wife with many events and conventions to establishment of free produce stores which resulted in the Philadelphia Free Produce Society. In 1833, he con-founded the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society with Lucretia.

James chaired the first Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848 on July 10 and 20, at which his wife was a speaker.

In 1864, he helped start Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania He died of pneumonia in Brooklyn, NY in 1868. ---Submitted by Vesta Wilson

Convention also supported the following resolutions: continued from page 1.

- To support lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.
- To call upon the Board to use the resources of the League to support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening should include elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment. We also call on the Board to communicate with the President and the Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are deeply concerned about this issue.
- To call upon the Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster.
- To add the principle of TRANSPARENCY to the SARA Resolution, as adopted by the LWVUS Convention of 2005. Revised to include the following Principles: Security; Accuracy; Recountability; Accessibility; and Transparency.
- To call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all.
- To call upon the LWVUS to highlight the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable. Further, the LWVUS demands that our government hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up. The LWVUS further urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to immediately take all necessary steps to maximize to the extent practicable the ability and efforts of all relevant federal agencies and departments to take action and to work with the U.S. coastal states and communities most directly and immediately affected, to respond creatively, efficiently and effectively to the environmental, health and economic crisis created by the oil flowing from the out of control BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico and by the efforts to contain and disperse it.

Fri., July 23	Mission West HOA Election	6:00 pm	Call Jean Holmes
Thurs., Aug 5	Action Committee	12:30 pm Brown Bag lunch	Kay Emanuele 's home
Mon., Aug 9	Board Meeting	6:45 pm	League Office 3375 Country Drive., Fre.
Thurs., Aug. 26	Women 's Equality Day		

Calendar