



FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

SUMMER 2014

LOOKING AHEAD

2014-2015

Join us to help make
democracy work and to
have fun with the League

Forums, forums, forums!!!

Local city council, school
boards and regional boards

Friday Night movies

National Voter
Registration Day Sept. 23

Last Day to Register to
Vote Oct. 20

General Election
Nov. 4, 2014

AUGUST 26TH

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Celebrate with us!

More details to follow shortly

SEPTEMBER

KICK OFF MEETING

Time & Place to be determined

**CAMPAIGN
FINANCE
REFORM**

No, the issue is not dead.
Update and a look forward to
solving the problems caused by the
Supreme Court's
Citizen United decision.

See what you can do as a citizen
and what you can do to help the
League address this issue at all
levels of government

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



We hope you are all having a wonderful summer. Let's continue to celebrate our freedom by continuing to take action for Voting Rights; there is a link in this month's edition for you use to send a letter to your representative in Congress to move forward with H.R. 3899, the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014.

The biggest news from this year's Board Retreat is we set an audacious goal for ourselves: **WE WANT TO MAKE THE TRI-CITY AREA THE HIGHEST VOTER TURN OUT AREA IN THE NATION!** We want to thank Jean Holmes who had the initial idea and led our strategy session on voting at the retreat. This effort is being spearheaded by our Voter Services V.P., Mary Miller. The Board is jazzed and we hope you are too. Many of you have volunteered for some of these areas so don't be surprised when one of our leaders gives you a call.

We also set a focus and direction for this coming year based on our members Advice to the Board given at our Annual Meeting and the output from last January's Program Planning Meeting chaired by Marilyn Singer. Members prioritized focus on Campaign Finance Reform, Reducing Gun Violence, Voting Rights and the environment - especially water. The first two were also input to National League; the latter for our own areas of emphasis. At the National Convention in June, the delegates, including our own Kathy Bray, chose a study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, a review and update of the League position on campaign finance (notice this ties nicely to our top priority) and a review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress.

We have an incredibly full agenda through January - our kick off meeting in September, Candidate Forums, a major registration event, National Voters Registration Day, on September 23, and producing the Voter Information Booklet just to name a few. Learn more about this at a membership social being planned for August 23rd by Sets Amann.

Sam Neeman and Carolyn Hedgecock

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015

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At Large	Evelyn La Torre
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Thank you to our 2013-2014 Donors and Volunteers!

Our League provides services to both our members and the community. We couldn't do this without the generous support of our community and members who support us with monetary and in-kind donations as well as giving of your time. Please support our community sponsors by trying their establishments.

This year's live auction donors: Alex and Peter Starr for 4 Cal Shakes tickets and 2 picnic totes with wine for before the show and Tyme for Tea in Niles for 2 Victorian Teas and a kit for hosting a memorable tea at home.

This year's raffle donors: The LWVFNUC Board and Judy Zlatnik - someone is getting a yummy pie! We had food covered with kind donations from The Niles Pie Company, The Nile Cafe, The Vine, Joe's Corner, The Original Pancake House - someone is eating well. And, we cannot forget the entertainment side; we thank Broadway West and Starstruck Theatre for 2 tickets each to a show and Alameda County Supervisor, Richard Valle, for 4 tickets to the A's. I hear Shrek is going to be awesome and who doesn't like a ball game?

This year's auction and raffle brought in about \$700 this year so we also need to thank all of you who participated in the auction and raffle at our Annual Meeting in June.

Our members give to the League in so many ways and throughout the year. We acknowledge and appreciate the support of the following members during the 2013-2104 year.

Setsuko Amann	Gail Blalock	Tina Bonaccorsi
Kathy Bray	Annette Crosbie	Martha Crowe
Ellen Culver	Kay Emanuele	Barbara Friedrich
Susan Gearhart	Bill Harrison	Carolyn Hedgecock
Jean Holmes	Miriam Keller	Cathie Kelly
Alison Kieft	Joanne Landers	Pat Lewis
Lynn Locher	Charlotte Lowery	Anne Macleod
Jane Mueller	Sam Neeman	Sandra Pantages

Haven't Renewed Your membership?

Are you as much a procrastinator as I am? I get that pesky Membership Renewal form and it just sits in my "I'll get around to it" pile. Next thing I know the Annual Meeting has come and gone and I still haven't paid my dues. This year I was way ahead of the game. While answering an email to another member I thought it is just so much easier paying on-line. Give it a try, it's easy, convenient and you don't need a stamp. And, your receipt is generated and sent to your email in seconds.

Log onto our web site: www.lwvfnuc.org and click on the **Join Button**

Sam Neeman

P.S. from another procrastinator, your editor, Alex...it really is very easy to renew online, even for me, a technophobe. It is almost as satisfying as cleaning out your closet!

REPORT FROM LWVUS CONVENTION

From our delegate Kathy Bray

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The national convention of the League of Women Voters in Dallas in June 2014 was an amazing, energetic, enthusiastic, awe inspiring experience. I want to thank the League of Women Voters Fremont, Newark, Union City for sending me to the convention and giving me the experience to attend this wonderful event.

The convention delegates elected the slate of candidates as recommended by the nominating committee so Elizabeth Mac Namara will be president for 2014-2016. One of the directors – at – large is Chris Carson who is from southern California.

The convention delegates adopted the program outlined and recommended by the Program Planning process. The program for the next two years will be on government and focus on three aspects: a study of the ways to amend the constitution including a constitutional convention; a review and

update of the position on campaign finance; and a review of redistricting for U. S. Congress to develop future action steps.

In addition the convention adopted a concurrence of the position of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey against Human Trafficking.

Lastly, the convention delegates passed a budget for 2014-2016 that includes an increase in PMP in 2015 by one dollar. The League needs to upgrade its computer systems in the next two years so that necessitates a need for more revenue.

Ongoing challenges for the League are growing a diversified membership and identifying new streams of fundraising. Diversification means age, ethnicity, race and gender broadening in membership. New revenue streams include foundation support.

Y VOTE CONTEST RESULTS

During this election year, the League of Women Voters Fremont, Newark and Union City once again sponsored a YVOTE multi-media art contest. The YVOTE contest, organized by the LWVFNUC Education Committee, began as a way to encourage high school students to think about voting. Not only does the name refer to the question – WHY VOTE – it is also intended to refer to *Youth Vote*. The Education Committee was discussing ways to encourage 18 year olds to register and vote. We thought we would go to the source, and ask teens how they would convince each other to vote.

This year, the YVOTE contest had 25 entries. Though the number of entries was small, we had the most diverse and polished group of entries in the history of the contest – including posters, video and, for the first time, a web page design! Through the generous donations of local politicians, community members and the LWVFNUC, we were able to offer prizes ranging from a \$25 participant award to the Grand Prize of \$500 – awarded to James Logan High School junior Alyssa Hernandez for her poster design *Be smart. Do your part. VOTE!* The Education Committee will be creating posters from the entries, including information about the contest. The posters will be distributed for display at our local high schools as a reminder to register and vote!

You can see Alyssa's poster, along with the other entries, by visiting our website homepage at LWVFNUC.org

POSITIONS, POSITIONS, POSITIONS

Where to find League positions???

On a National Level, you can search "Impact on Issues". Yes, we know that doesn't sound much like positions, but that's where they are located. It will talk about ordering for a book for \$9.

Instead, just click on the **more** button for more information. Here's the URL:

<http://lwv.org/content/impact-issues>. This includes the 80+ page pamphlet and other smaller docs. You do not have to login, but we encourage you to become a member if you are not already. There is so much information on the member resource site.

Check out this document available on the LWVC members only page for LWVC positions

http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvonly/docs/lwvc_positions.pdf

and this one , available on the LWV Bay Area web site

<http://www.lwvbayarea.org/advocacy.html>

Lastly, ours are on our public web site under the *About* tab

<http://www.lwvfnc.org/public/localpositions.pdf>

This information was prompted by the data provided by Bonnie Hamlin, Smart Voter Coordinator for Alameda County and an invaluable source of information about League.

Statement of Position on Federal Agriculture Policies

As Announced by the National Board May 2014

The League believes that government should provide financial support for agriculture that includes disaster assistance, crop insurance, need-based loans and incentives to adopt best management practices. Support should be extended to specialty crops, such as fruits, vegetables and nuts, to new production methods, such as organic, hydroponic, and urban practices, and to farms that supply local and regional markets.

Subsidized crop yield insurance should be linked to implementation of best management practices with the subsidy denied for marginal or environmentally sensitive land. The premium subsidy for crop insurance should be available for a wide range of crops, such as fruits, vegetables and specialty crops. Government should limit the amount of the premium subsidy received by larger farms.

The League supports policies that increase competition in agricultural markets. Antitrust law should be enforced to ensure competitive agricultural markets. Alternative marketing systems such as regional hub markets, farmers' markets and farmer cooperatives should be promoted.

Clean air and water regulations should apply to all animal and aquaculture production and processing facilities, and not just to the very large confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Such regulations should be designed in a manner that takes into account environmentally sound technologies and the scale of the operation being regulated. Small size operations should not be granted automatic exemption from regulation.

The League believes that government regulatory agencies dealing with animal and aquaculture production should have adequate authority and funding to 1) enforce regulations and 2) gather information that supports monitoring the impacts of

all animal feeding and aquaculture operations on human and animal health and the environment.

Government should fund basic research related to agriculture. Government funded research should also address the impact of new technologies on human health and the environment prior to widespread adoption of products developed with such technologies. Assessment of products developed with new technologies should be conducted as transparently as possible, while respecting intellectual property rights. Research should be funded to support the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems, such as seed banking and promoting and preserving genetic diversity.

To provide adequate safety of our food supply, government should:

- Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for foods and food additives developed using any new chemical technology, such as genetic engineering or nanotechnology;
- Require developers to monitor all such new food products developed after releasing to the market;
- Require developers of such new food products to provide data and other materials to independent third parties for pre- and post-marketing safety assessment;
- Fund independent third party risk assessment examining how long term and multiple exposures to such new foods affect human health and the environment;
- Withdraw marketing approval and require recall if such products are shown to be unsafe;
- Require post-market monitoring of human health and environmental impacts for pharmaceutical applications used in animal and aquaculture production;
- Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to the treatment of disease;
- Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals; and
- Fund, employ and train sufficient personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies.

The League supports government developing and requiring more informative and standardized definitions on product labeling. Food labeling and advertising should display only approved health and

safety claims and an accurate representation of the required ingredient and nutrition lists. The League supports consumer education about labeling of foods developed using any new technology.

The LWVC Higher Education Study Committee Has Been Appointed

Committee members were announced at the May 2014 Council in San Jose. The focus of the study is the accessibility to quality public higher education including funding sources and allocations and student debt and affordability. You can read more about the study on our CAvotes.org Higher Education Study Page.

The state board was pleased to receive applications from outstanding candidates. Our goal was to have as much diversity as possible on the committee and to represent the state. Visit the [Higher Education Study Committee Page](#) to read about who is on the committee. Eleanor Yick, a member of the scope group for the study, will serve as chair of the study committee. She expects to get the members together as soon as possible to begin their work. There is real excitement around the study and a sense of urgency to get research materials to local Leagues while the interest is high. Join the [LWVC Yahoo Group about Higher Education](#) to get involved and stay informed.

From Jenny Waggoner, Immediate Past President, LWVC

I announced my resignation as LWVC/EF President, effective June 30, 2014 and that **I will be continuing on both boards as a general Director through 6/30/2015**. The issue is NOT that my work has made it too difficult to continue as president, but that this has been planned since 2012 to encourage greater overlap between the outgoing and incoming leadership. If I didn't step down now, I would have needed to continue for a fifth term on the board, which I did not feel was healthy for the organization or for me. I love this organization, and serving as a leader, and feel it would be irresponsible if I didn't plan to serve in a supportive role while others step up. I look forward to discussing bylaws amendments relating to leadership transition and flexible leadership structures.

REQUEST: join the 2015 Bylaws committee if you're interested in helping - just contact Ellen Wheeler secretary@lwvc.org!

August 21

Action Group

League Office 11-1

August 26

Woman's Equality Day

Celebration – time & place TBA

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

THE LEAGUE BELIEVES THAT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT DEPENDS UPON THE INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ITS CITIZENS AND REQUIRES THAT GOVERNMENTAL BODIES PROTECT THE CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO KNOW BY GIVING ADEQUATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS, HOLDING OPEN MEETINGS AND MAKING PUBLIC RECORDS 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.

Sets Amann

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:*

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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 \$ _____