



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

VOTER



FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

SUMMER 2015

Annual Meeting - 2015

What a great Annual Meeting this year. Our Keynote Speaker, Mike Honda, gave a legislative update paying special attention to our League's issues and priorities. He also spent time with members, visiting with each of the tables and taking pictures with members. At our business meeting, Sam Neeman presented the League Year in Review. You can see the slides and some great pictures at our web site www.lwvfnuc.org. Read the President's written report on our members only website at <http://lwvfnuc.org/memonly/annualarchive/CallToAnnual2015.pdf>. The logon id and password are in your gray Membership Directory and Handbook.

Alex Starr gave the LWV California Convention Report. A day in Tijuana was a highlight where our delegates, Evelyn La Torre, Sets Amann and Alex Starr and member Peter Starr met with deported people including veterans, the director of a migrant research institute and the U.S. Consul and staff.



Rebecca Venable, Evelyn La Torre, Sets Amann and Kathy Bray representing our League at Fremont's July 4th Parade.

Our League was a parade sponsor.

The three delegates and Peter attended many of the caucuses and workshops including one on the California League's Higher Education Study. If you are interested in this study be sure to contact Miriam Keller if you've not already done so. To top off a great convention our League was honored with the 2015 Voter Service - Diversity Outreach Award.

Peter Starr gave the Treasurer's Report highlighting that though the LWV California Per Member Payment (PMP) is being raised by \$2.50 this year LWVFNUC will not be raising dues at the direction of the Board. The Board will continue to monitor PMPs to LWVBA, LWVC and the National League and when our dues no longer cover the PMP the Board will look at all ways of funding this including, if necessary, raising dues. He also reminded members we are now a 501(c)(3) charitable organization as all dues and donations are now tax deductible.

The members adopted the 2015- 2016 budget as presented by Peter, re-adopted all local and regional positions and accepted all officers and directors nominated by this year's Nominating Committee, chaired by Gail Blalock. NOTE the co-Presidents were not nominated by the committee but appointed at the last 2014-15 Board Meeting on June 13th. Welcome the new board!

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



Dear Fellow League Members,

We, Pauline Weaver and Syeda Inamdar, are honored to be serving as the co-presidents of LWVFNUC; we are also delighted to be working together in a more formal capacity, after many years of knowing each other as active community members.

We look forward to working with all of you over the coming months to grow the League and expand our reach.

We thought we would begin our journey ahead by first introducing ourselves:

Pauline Weaver:

I have been a member of the League since 1976 when I joined in Memphis, TN. Although I have never served on the Board before, I am looking forward to the challenge. By profession, I am an attorney. I graduated from the University of Memphis School of Law and then moved to California with my husband. For 29 years, I was a Public Defender with the Alameda County Public Defender's Office. After retirement in 2011, I opened my own office. Now I concentrate on pro bono criminal defense.

I have always been active in the community, having served four terms as Chair of SAVE's Board, two terms on the Planning Commission and two terms on the Sister City Commission. In my professional life, I was on the State Bar Board of Governors and the American Bar Association Board of Governors for three years each. Currently, I am Secretary of the ABA's Government and Public Lawyers Section and serve as a Delegate in the House of Delegates.

I love to read and travel. I have been fortunate to have visited over 115 countries. Don't ask me about my favorite trip – they are all wonderful!

Syeda Inamdar

I joined the League sometime in the early 1990's. I have served on various capacities with LWVFNUC including President as well as Chaired the Alameda County Council of the League of Women Voters ("ACC of LWV). My favorite term was as President during the 50th anniversary year of LWVFNUC in 2007 where we looked back at our many achievements and forward to challenges while savoring the work of the moment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Co-Presidents

Syeda Inamdar
Pauline Weaver

president@lwvfnuc.org

VP Administration

Miriam Keller

VP Program

Ellen Culver

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VP Voter Service

Sets Amann

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Secretary

Mary Miller

Treasurer

Peter Starr

Directors

Communications/Media

Sam Neeman

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Membership

Evelyn La Torre

Voter Editor

Alex Starr

voteredit@lwvfnuc.org

At Large

Kathy Bray

At Large

Carolyn Hedgecock

At Large

Alice Johnson

At Large

Susan Lemke

At Large

Anu Natarajan

Off Board

Action Group, Chair

Alex Starr

action@lwvfnuc.org

Education Cmte. Chair

Miriam Keller

Webmaster/Db Admin

Peter Starr

webmaster@lwvfnuc.org

Nominating Cmte.

Gail Blalock, Chair

Andrea Schacter

Open

I most recently completed my second term as a Board Director with the League of Women Voters of California ("LWVC"). While I was with LWVC, I spearheaded a pilot project related to community outreach. I am passionate about our mission to make democracy work by engaging all community members in the democratic process. This passion is why I continue to be an active League member.

My educational background is diverse with an undergraduate in Anthropology and an MBA in Finance. I was a Certified Public Accountant but now I do more operational work, managing real estate investments. However, my passion remains community activism.

On a personal note, I love chocolate, and was a hard core dessertarian ... however, late onset adulthood has convinced me to cultivate a greater fondness for fruit and veggies...

We are both excited about working with dedicated and capable team members on the Board as well as off-Board committees. We anticipate an action packed year ahead and look forward to the journey!

LWVUS

Be an arm chair activist!

As a member of your local League you are also a member of LWV California and LWV United States. You can act as a League member on local, state and national issues through LWVFNUC, LWVC and LWVUS web sites.

Join the LWVUS online community and get news alerts in your inbox. Information on the latest legislative priorities and news from Leagues around the country will arrive in your inbox.

Register to become an online activist. Go now to <http://lww.org/get-involved> or <http://account.votility.com/enterprise/LWVC/index.php>

Join us in helping make democracy work.

LWVC

2015 League of Women Voters Convention San Diego California Report from Evelyn LaTorre

Thank you for sending us to the LWV California convention. It was a wonderful experience and explained how the League is organized and makes decisions. I saw the convention decide what bylaws to change, where to spend its money and what issues to study.

A few of the highlights:

- The day in Tijuana proved how the deportation of immigrants is a complex dilemma. We heard from deported veterans, the director of a migrant research institute, the U.S. Consul and staff, and deported individuals.
- Caucuses on:
 1. alternatives to the “top two” voting system (to get more women elected)
 2. access to healthcare for immigrants and the poor (single payer system)
 3. the new LWVC nominees for state offices (impressive leaders)
 4. the League’s Higher Education Study (info starting in August to Feb.)
- Workshops on:
 1. the basics of the League like nonpartisanship, voter service, advocacy
 2. civil discourse and how the League is bringing a calm voice to others
- Speakers:
 1. California President, Helen Hutchison-facilitated an orderly, smooth convention agenda that raised the PDP \$5.00 in the 2-year budget
 2. Ca. Secretary of State, Alex Padilla-is increasing voter registration with automatic registrations at the DMV; strengthening voting rights
 3. Professor Lisa Garcia Bedolla- how race, class and gender intersect & how technology can facilitate voter mobilization
 4. San Diego Ethics Commission, Stacey Fulhorst-how her office keeps politicians honest and makes them put the public interest first
 5. National Institute on Civil Discourse leader, Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer-how she facilitates forums with elected officials, journalists & the public

LWVFNUC Union Sanitary Field Trip

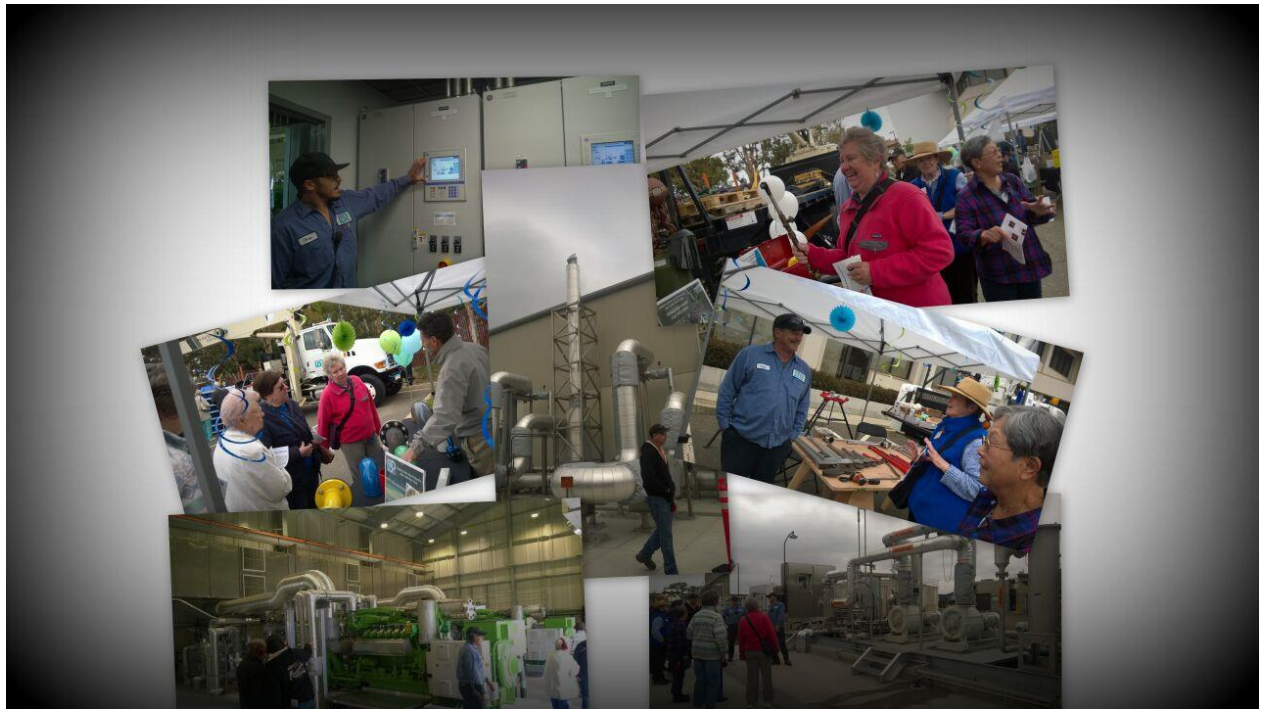


Photo by Rebecca Venable

Alice Johnson, LWVFNUC member, arranged a field trip to Union Sanitary District (USD) OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, May 9, 2015 for League members. Several members took this opportunity to attend and talked to engineers, chemists, plant operators, mechanics, electricians, business services personnel and saw USD's Green-Energy projects. We learned that USD partners with Washington Hospital Healthcare System and Haller's Pharmacies to provide a program that allows residents to safely and responsibly dispose of expired or unwanted medications at their convenience. USD also works with Tri-City dentists

to reduce mercury entering the waste stream. They educate residents and restaurants to reduce grease entering the sewer. Grease in sewer lines can cause costly backups into homes and businesses. It can also cause overflows that go into storm drains and into creeks without treatment. Lastly they regulate 90 industries to reduce the discharge of toxic pollution that could enter the Bay. For all these innovative implementations, they were awarded National Association of Clean Water Agencies Peak Performance Gold Award.

Submitted by Sets Amann



This year's winner of a free 2016-2017 LWVFNC membership is long time member Doris Nikolaidis. Delighted to hear this she said, "I've never won anything before." Well now you have Doris, Congratulations. To be eligible for the drawing at our Annual Meeting you just have to pay your current year's dues on or before the Annual Meeting each year.

LWVBA – MONITOR

Four for the Fortieth

It's official — the *Bay Area Monitor* is 40 years old.

We reached that milestone in May. Leading up to this landmark anniversary, we've run a series of articles chronicling the publication's history, starting with its launch to address issues related to the federal Clean Air Act of 1970. Series author Leslie Stewart traced the *Monitor's* evolution through the decades, describing how its coverage of planning and policy developed to match the Bay Area's own remarkable growth. Her last installment recounted events through 2005, just short of when the region began to grapple with two unprecedented challenges.

The first was climate change. With the passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, California committed to significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Also known by its less majestic legislative title, Assembly Bill 32, this law has held widespread ramifications for stakeholders across the state. Numerous *Monitor* articles from the past decade have underscored the statute's role in the fight against climate change, and countless more have touched on attendant strategies for confronting one of the most serious problems of our time.

The second challenge received much less attention within the pages of the *Monitor*, but behind the scenes, it has been a subject of concern. The Great Recession brought financial hardship to the Bay Area and beyond, crippling various sectors of the economy, and print media in particular.

The *Monitor* survived those lean times, but for it to remain viable in the uncertain future will require innovation. So, thanks to the great generosity of our donors, we have taken new strides in the past year — printing in full color, redesigning our website, doubling our online readership, launching a Facebook page, and recruiting a Water Education Initiative Reporting Fellow.

Bay Area Monitor 2015-16 Reporting Team

WATER

Robin Meadows has written for such publications as *Audubon*, *Bay Nature*, *Conservation*, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, *High Country News*, *Nature*, *PLOS Biology*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She has won several awards for her science and environmental journalism, and is the Reporting Fellow for the *Bay Area Monitor's* 2014-15 Water Education Initiative.



TRANSPORTATION

Cecily O'Connor's journalism career spans more than 15 years of writing and editing for industry magazines, news websites, corporations, and nonprofits, primarily covering issues related to transportation, finance, community, and family. A former National Press Foundation Fellow, she has worked on staff at *MarketWatch* and *Pensions & Investments*.



AIR & ENERGY

Leslie Stewart has been affiliated with the *Bay Area Monitor* since 1992, serving as the publication's editor from 1996 to 2006, and as its most regular contributing writer ever since. A member of the League of Women Voters since 1981, she has held leadership positions in the organization at the local, regional, and state levels, including most recently as president of LWV Diablo Valley.



OPEN SPACE

Elizabeth Devitt's work has appeared in *Bay Nature*, *Ensis*, *Mongabay*, *Nature Medicine*, *Stanford Medicine Magazine*, *National Geographic News*, and the *San Jose Mercury News*, among others. A former veterinarian, she is the author of "The Mustang Trail," a serial reporting project about America's wild horses, published on the crowd-funding platform Beacon Reader.



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

LWVFNUC ED COMMITTEE

The LWVFNUC Education Committee needs members. We could study the Local Control Funding Formula, the implementation of Common Core Standards, the Fremont, Newark and New Haven School Boards and, not least, a new "Y Vote" Contest. Meetings can be when you want them, daytime or evenings. For questions or to sign up, call or email Miriam Keller, miriamkel@comcast.net.

LWVC STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

submitted by Miriam Keller

LWVFNC's Committee for the state Study of Public Higher Education met twice this summer to discuss the background readings chosen by the State Study committee and make plans for possible speaker at an October public meeting and a later consensus meeting. We need to find a speaker (s) knowledgeable about the background of higher education today or with possible solutions. Any suggestions? Call or email Miriam Keller. One more committee meeting might be scheduled after we receive the consensus questions in September.

Discussion on background materials has included these facts:

- The State is providing less money to the UC and CSU systems each year. In 2013 more State money was put into our prison system than into our higher education system.
- By 2025 one million more college graduates will be needed in California.
- California's higher education institutions have not expanded enrollment at the same rate as the states population growth, nor has state spending on higher education.
- California is spending more per student than the national average.

Master Plan

The Master Plan transformed a collection of uncoordinated and competing colleges and universities into a coherent system. The Master Plan created, for the first time anywhere, a system that combined exceptional quality with broad access for students. It also made a commitment to have a place waiting for every high school graduate.

- The 1960 Master Plan called for a UC system to be the primary academic research institution and was to select from the top 1/8 (12%) of the high school graduating class.
- The CSUs primary mission is undergraduate education and graduate education through the master's degree including professional and teacher education. CSU was to select from among the top 1/3 (33.3%) of the high school graduates.

- The Cal. Community Colleges were to admit any student capable of benefitting from instruction. .

Costs, Fees, Enrollment

As the State has withdrawn college funding, student costs have risen. Tuition and fees have increased dramatically. By 2010 almost half of Cal. Freshmen took out students loans. Enrollment declines have occurred as Cal. Public colleges and universities have employed various strategies to balance their budgets. Those strategies include cutting courses, programs, and student services and capping enrollment at more desirable campuses. The average total tuition and fees at UC, CSU and CCC have increased approximately 150% since 2003-4.

In our next Voter we will list some of the recommendations that have been suggested.

All the background articles can be downloaded from the LWVC members only website at <http://lwvc.org/study/education-0>.

CALENDAR

August 17

Board Meeting

6:45 League Office

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

Mission

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community diversity.

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(LWVFNUC)

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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 Evelyn La Torre, Membership Chair, for information.

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Organization. Please make your
check payable to: LWVFNUC and
mail it with this form to:*

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