

League of Women Voters Fremont, Newark, Union City

Annual Meeting June 4, 2016

Minutes

The Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City was held on June 4, 2016 from 9:00 until 11:30 a.m. at the Niles Discovery Church located at 35500 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA.

Phillip Ung, Director, Legislative and External Affairs at California's Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) was the featured speaker for the breakfast meeting. He gave an informative and interactive presentation on the role and operations of the FPPC.

The California FPPC is a five (5) member commission charged with enforcing campaign finance, ethics, lobbying, conflict of interest, and corruption laws for all elected bodies throughout the state. As the State's "watchdog" the eighty (80) member staff oversee between 500,000 and 800,000 public servants statewide.

The November election will have eighteen (18) citizen-initiated ballot measures which the FPPC will monitor for appropriate advertising, along with the statements put forth by candidates. California has a \$1 billion political industry, all of which needs oversight regarding advertising, public disclosure, enforcing gift limits, enforcing "revolving door" laws which govern conditions and time frames in which a public employee can become a paid lobbyist.

The business meeting was called to order by Co-President Syeda Inamdar at 10:35 am. The credentials report was given by Kathy Bray who confirmed that the minimum 15% member quorum was met by 26 out of 106 members attending. The membership adopted the rules of the day and the order of business.

Syeda Inamdar gave the President's report which included a review of activities. She acknowledged the work of the chairpersons of each of the three (3) major studies that we undertook: Money in Politics (John Smith), Higher Education (Miriam Keller), and Constitutional Amendment (Merna Morse). Other activities throughout the year included monthly meetings for the public, movie nights, participation in Bay Area League Day, testimony to city councils, Observers, taping of the 17th Congressional District candidate forum, presentation of Pros and Cons, and the highly successful voter registration drive done in concert with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters where more than 1,100 high school students were registered to vote. Sets Amann was acknowledged for her leadership in coordinating this project with the three (3) school districts.

The membership unanimously approved the proposed by-laws amendment. Peter Starr presented the item and explained that it was necessary to obtain a "Welfare Exemption" from the Alameda County Board of Equalization in order to have our League Office at the Fremont Community Activities Center building. This is a requirement of the City of Fremont of all organizations using the Fremont Community Activities Center building, which includes our LWVFNUC office.

Treasurer Peter Starr gave both the treasurer's report and the proposed budget for next year. He provided handouts with details. Our League has not increased dues for several years, holding to the practice of not making dues a barrier to participation. However, at this time the local league only keeps \$.50 of our dues. The next Board is encouraged to consider updating the dues structure in order to generate some revenue from PMP for our operating costs rather than relying on fundraising and donations alone. The membership accepted the treasurer's report and adopted the proposed budget. Each item was voted on separately.

Ellen Culver gave the program report. At the annual program planning committee the members re-adopted the current local positions. Our league will follow the State and National issues for emphasis, without generating any local positions. The membership adopted the committee recommendations.

The nominating committee report was given by Andrea Schacter and nominations were taken from the floor to address unfilled positions. Nominations were:

- Carolyn Hedgecock and Anu Natarajan for Program V.P. (M Keller/K Bray)
- Kathy Bray for Nominating Committee member (A Johnson/M Crowe)
- Sam Neeman for Director at Large (C Hedgecock/K Bray)
- Sophia Liu for Director at Large (M Keller/M Singer)

The additional positions proposed by the nominating committee were provided on a handout, and include:

- Administrative VP - Miriam Keller
- Treasurer- Peter Starr
- Director at Large- Alice Johnson
- Nominating Committee Chair - Andrea Schacter
- Nominating Committee Member- Kathy Steel-Sabo

All nominations were accepted by acclamation.

Syeda Inamdar asked the membership to offer advice to the Board and/or make any announcements. Comments were:

- Board members should invite non-board members to help with projects in order to mentor more active members.

- Anyone interested in participating in the next Voter Information Bulletin (VIB) should contact the Action Committee
- Alex Starr has arranged for a BART tour on June 24, 2016.
- The LWVBA will review transportation oversight committee recommendations. Staff has asked for 2 citizen positions on this committee and requested that both come from local LWV.
- The announcement of the passing of long time LWV member, Mary Roulet, lead to a motion being passed (Singer/Zlatnik) to set up a memorial fund in her name and to donate all proceeds to TriCity Volunteers for their food drive. Mary was well known for her cakes. Marilyn Singer will coordinate this.
- July 9, 2016 movie will be on the Elwa Dam and is co-sponsored by TriCity Ecology.
- Judy Zlatnik reported that the City of Fremont has embarked on a project to become an Age Friendly City and the Human Services Committee has funding for a Senior Village.
- Jeff Spencer reported on modification proposed by Union Pacific for their rail lines. ACE has alternative proposals. Spencer is asking for the environmental impact statement that will come out of any agreement to include the cargo to be carried as well as the traditional physical impacts. This is an opportunity for the LWV to help write a complete environmental impact study.
- Miriam Keller has a copy of Michael Moore's video "Where to Invade Next" and will be holding a showing at her house. The video is available for anyone to borrow.
- Miriam Keller put out a call for help with RISE for anyone interested. RISE will hold a renter's assembly at the Holy Spirit Church at 10am on June 18th.

Marilyn Singer won the drawing for next year's free membership.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am by Syeda Inamdar with thanks to all who helped with LWV this past year.