

The Voter



May/June 2023

"Watch Party"

Andrea Schacter, LWVFNUC Program Vice President

LWVFNUC members only are invited to an in-person gathering to watch a video interview featuring California Secretary of State Shirley M. Weber

Join us May 18th—noon to 2:00 PM in the meeting room, Fremont Cultural Arts Center/League Office, 3375 Country Drive, Fremont

We will watch a recent interview with California's Secretary of State. In addition to learning the many aspects of her position, we'll see the fascinating path her career has taken and the powerful messages she shares.

The League will provide beverages and dessert, and those attending may bring their own lunches.



California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber,

Rare Opportunity to Attend State League Convention May 19 to 21

The State Convention's convenient location this year makes it easy for members of LWVFNUC to attend. The donation that our League contributed to help defray convention expenses means that we will have our own table at the General Session (plenary) and our attendees will be given sponsor ribbons.

The convention endeavors to enlighten our members by highlighting our best practices in community volunteerism, to inspire others as

League leaders, and to celebrate our shared passion for making California a well-governed and vibrant state.

Attendance at the convention is open to everyone. For the schedule, workshops, special activities, and more, go to:
<http://lwvc.wordpress.com>. Please check the site regularly as plans are updated frequently.

LWVFNUC Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 10, 2023

Buffet Breakfast at 8:00-9:00 a.m. - \$15.00

Skipping breakfast? Be sure to arrive by 9:00 a.m.

Meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Starting with our speaker, former Senator Bob Wieckowski

Acacia Creek
34400 Mission Blvd.
Union City, CA 94587

Guests are welcome



Bob Wieckowski was appointed to the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board on January 11, 2023, by Senate President pro Tempore, Toni G. Atkins. Prior to his appointment, in 2014, Senator Wieckowski was elected as a member of the California State Senate, representing District 10, where he served two terms in the California State Legislature.

Before his career in public service, as a small business owner and bankruptcy attorney, Senator Wieckowski helped hundreds of families and seniors persevere through economic hardship, keep their homes, and live with dignity. He began his career in public service working as a policy aide to Congressman Don Edward, where he worked on the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978, which created new reorganizing tools for business and individuals. Before being elected to the Legislature, he served on numerous boards and commissions, was elected in 2004 as City Councilman and eventually served as Vice-Mayor in the City of Fremont.

In 2010, Bob Wieckowski was elected to the California State Assembly to represent the 20th Assembly District, where he served as Chair of the Committee on Environment Safety and Toxic Materials. In 2012, he was elected to represent the 25th Assembly District.

Bob Wieckowski earned his B.A. in political science from University of California Berkeley and earned his J.D. degree from Santa Clara University School of Law.

Look for the Call to Annual Meeting packet in the mail this month. Registration for breakfast will be available on our website www.lwvfnuc.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank-you letters received from Abode Services and Union City Police Department

From Abode Services:” Thank you for your gift of \$500.00 to Abode Services. Your thoughtfulness helps us serve thousands of people each year, as we work to end homelessness.

From Jared Rinetti, Union City Chief of Police: “Thank you for the invitation to participate in the League of Women Voters Chiefs Program. I appreciate the opportunity it provided Chief Washington, Chief Anderson, and myself to share information on our police departments with your members and attendees...Pauline Weaver, the facilitator, was fantastic.”

President's Message

By Angelina Reyes



The 2023 LWVC Biennial Convention will be celebrated in Downtown San Francisco on May 19-21. The address is 50 Third Street. The theme for this California Convention, “Power & Possibility,” sounds interesting and thought-provoking. The Convention website states: “The purpose of Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work!”

Our delegates are preparing to attend sessions with keynote speakers and panelists and network with like-minded people. Our Fremont, Newark and Union City League is entitled to send four delegates. By attending this convention, we can expand our knowledge base and gain insights into new trends. Our voting delegates for this convention will be Dennis Godden, Syeda Inamdar, Giana Udoh, and your president, me.

But you don't need to be a delegate to attend. LWVC conventions always welcome observers. Since this convention is in the Bay Area this year, it is a unique opportunity for LWVFNUC members to attend, even if it is for one day. You can listen to experienced League leaders, meet, and connect with LWV members from other areas in California in sessions of focused discussions. We share common areas of interest and exchange practical ideas that could improve our local League.

Let us know if you plan to attend so that we can meet up and enjoy a beverage during the breaks. Here is the website: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com>.

Program for the League Year Wraps Up

Andrea Schacter, LWVFNUC Program Vice President

We reached a high mark in terms of attendance at our March 27 meeting—Policing in the Tri-Cities. Forty-eight people heard Chief Washington of Fremont, Chief Anderson of Newark and Chief Rinetti of Union City answer questions posed by LWVFNUC moderator extraordinaire, Pauline Weaver. For one and a half hours, the Chiefs responded to a multitude of questions, including recruitment, training, and discipline of officers and how to establish and maintain trust with the communities they serve. If you missed the program, be sure to watch a recording that can be found on our web page, www.lwvfnuc.org.

Unfortunately, the program planned for April, Housing Elements: Fremont, Newark, and Union City, did not materialize. Coordinating with the three cities was too cumbersome, given the lead time allowed. Civil servants are very busy people! This topic, however, remains on our list, as we believe our members and the public have an interest in knowing what each city has submitted to the state for its proposal to increase local housing. Keep a lookout for this topic in future monthly programs.

Members Are Welcome to Join the Program Team

The Program Team would be glad to add a few new members in the coming League year, starting in July. This creative team helps develop the program topics for the year, recruits presenters, and publicizes events. Bring your fresh perspective and ideas to engage members and the public. For more information, contact Andrea Schacter, schacter@comcast.net.

We Make a Difference

Voter Service was exceptionally active in the past year

By Sets Amann

This past year was a busy one for the Voter Service Team. Here's how our League reached out to the community, providing candidate and issues education online and in person and, of course, registering voters. Putting this together reminds us of what an amazing and energetic group we are. So many of you participated, far too many to name individually. Thank you to all who participated; we all make a difference!

Our League held 11 Candidate Forums, coordinated by Andrea Schacter and me over Zoom including Newark USD Board, Newark City Council, Fremont Mayoral, Fremont City Council Districts 2, 5 and 6, Fremont USD Areas 3, 4 & 5, Union City Mayor, Union city Council District 2, and the Ohlone School Board Area 2

Under the leadership of Julie Dunkle, the Voter Registration Team had registration drives at Mission San Jose, Logan, Roberson, Washington, and Irvington high schools. The team also participated in the National Voter Registration Day in conjunction with EXPO of Fremont Area Non-profit Organizations.

Our innovative and time intensive Voter Information Booklet with local candidate information was sent to 115,720 households in Fremont, Newark, and Union City. This team was headed by Dennis Godden.

The Ballot Initiative Pros and Cons team, led by Sam Neeman, provided 11 in-person Pros/Cons presentations, reaching over 250 community members. The team provided the Pros and Cons in several formats this year—presentations, panel discussions, and on our website. A special note of thanks goes to Diablo Valley League for their excellent Zoom presentations.

A small team of J.C. Clark and Rich Yacco worked with LWVC to update Voter's Edge. And, our Communications Team made sure there was publicity for all our events in local newspapers and on social media.

If you haven't participated in our voter outreach and would like to, please update your interest in these areas in the Interest List when you pay your dues for 2023/2024.

Action Group Watch List 2023-2024

The Action Committee met in April and identified the following Watch List for 2023 and beyond:

Education and Juvenile Justice

- Monitor impact and implementation of State legislation on our local schools.
- Monitor land use issues regarding school facilities, especially near TOD.
- Encourage implementation of AB 537, the Safe Schools Act of 2000.
- Monitor Juvenile Justice Reform as part overall Criminal Justice Reform. *

Land Use

- Monitor land and environmental use.
- Monitor issues of private open space in TriCity Area.
- Monitor effect of increased housing units on transportation and schools.

Ongoing

- Monitor local elected and appointed bodies including Brown Act issues. Support development of affordable housing.
- Assist Voter Service with forums and facilitate educating the public on local election issues.
- Conduct LWVC legislative interviews.
- Interview local newly elected or appointed officials in Tri-City area. Post to newsletter and on our website.
- Monitor local implementation of environmental quality issues.

Alameda County/TriCity Area

- Monitor Measure A (Health Care Services) Measure A1 (Affordable Housing). *
 - Monitor transportation issues that affect Tri-City area. *
 - Monitor mental health issues and services. *
 - Monitor Alameda County budget. *
 - Monitor ACWD (Alameda County Water District). *
 - Monitor Union Sanitary District
 - Monitor Oversight of Public Protection Agencies (AB1185 and related). *
 - Monitor issues related to Registrar of Voters. *
- * = indicates cooperation with Alameda County Council of League of Women Voters

LWVBA

- Monitor local decisions for regional impacts in housing, transportation, land use and regional governance.
- Send a representative to LWVBA Interleague Network.

LWVC and LWVUS

- Support priorities and Calls to Action.
- Support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts in all aspects of civic life.

Action Committee is an exceptionally interesting way to participate. The next meeting is May 9 via Zoom. To attend, contact miriamkel@comcast.net.

Opinion

We Are Fighting the Same Battles All Over Again!

By Alice Johnson

The League of Women Voters has played a key role in the history of women in the United States. For over a century, women have worked to secure their right to vote. These rights for all our citizens are now under attack in several states. **We are fighting for everyone's right to vote all over again.**

I joined the League of Women Voters in 1972 in Las Vegas Nevada, a much smaller city than it is now. There were only two other Leagues in Nevada then: Reno and Carson City. My first meeting was at the Union Plaza Hotel and Casino in downtown Las Vegas. The topic was Reproductive Health Care and Abortion Rights. It was well attended, and the audience had many questions for the panelists (a doctor, a Planned Parenthood representative, and a Pro-Life supporter). **We are fighting for our rights for reproductive health care all over again.**

Eventually I became president of the Las Vegas League. At that time many Leagues across the country were active in supporting the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. I actually hosted a lovely Leaguer from Massachusetts in my home who was there to help us in Nevada. Another friend and local Leaguer worked so hard on the failed amendment, she later suffered a nervous

breakdown. **We are fighting for equal rights all over again!**

I have had the honor of representing the League at two national conventions. One year the League's National Convention was to be held in Chicago. The national board moved the entire convention to Ohio as Illinois had not yet passed (or had voted against) the ERA. Ohio was delighted to host us!

The overwhelming issue that year was the possibility of changing the name of the League. It seemed important to acknowledge the increasing number of men who had become members. The delegates in the end voted to preserve our name. The key reason was if we were to give up the name League of Women Voters, someone else could eventually take it over and take advantage of our excellent reputation.

In the 70's, one of our older Leaguers in Las Vegas noted she had marched with her mother in early suffragette marches of the previous century. I marveled at how those women fought their entire lives and died without seeing those rights in place. **I now see my own life in that light, fighting over and over again for these same rights.**

Finding a Way to Live Your Values

By Jane Mueller

Several of our League members, as you may know already, are involved in building the first cohousing community in Southern Alameda County, called Mission Peak Village. Cohousing is a type of intentional community in which residents maintain their own private households while cultivating community interaction by sharing amenities, such as a Common House (clubhouse) that serves as a community gathering place. The plans go before Fremont Planning Commission on May 11. Among the values embraced by the members in the planning stage was living more sustainably.

Environmentally conscious plans for Mission Peak Village include:

- Positioning of buildings on site to make optimal use of natural light and air circulation
- Solar panels and all-electric heating, cooling, and appliances
- Outlets in each garage as well as shared electric vehicle charging stations
- Convenient location for walking, biking, and using public transportation
- Strategy for vehicle sharing
- Covered area for ample bicycle storage
- Group norms for borrowing and lending before buying
- Meal sharing
- Recycling and waste reduction
- Extensive community garden space
- Pollinator-friendly landscaping
- Water efficiency methods, including systems to prevent storm water runoff

In addition, Mission Peak Village is an infill project, which is an aspect of the Housing Element of the General Plan that the League has historically advocated for. Infill projects trim costs by making efficient use of existing infrastructure and public services and avoiding the need for investment in expensive new infrastructure such as roads, sewer systems, and utility lines. The location takes advantage of existing public transportation resources, an aspect that will become even more evident when the new Irvington BART station opens about a half mile away.

It's a big undertaking, but for those of us who have become involved, it is satisfying to put together a project that reflects our commitment to community and our determination to live more lightly on the planet.

Curious about how cohousing will work in Fremont?

Mission Peak Village members are holding an event May 12-15 that they are calling Cohousing University. Most of it takes place via Zoom, except for a rarely available in-person tour on Mother's Day afternoon of Mountain View Cohousing.

For details and registration information, visit www.missionpeakcohousing.org

BAY AREA LEAGUE NEWS

The Bay Area League Board has reserved a suite during the LWVC Convention beginning on May 18. We are going to schedule a series of small meetings in our suite with local League delegates. With the help of the LWVC's convention team, we are trying to arrange use of a meeting room large enough for all Bay Area delegates to attend. Please indicate your interest in attending these special meetings on Bay Area issues and membership support concerns by sending your email and/or text cell number by May 17 to lwvbayarea@gmail.com.

In other news, the Board is in the process of updating the publication schedule and format for the *Monitor*. We will keep our subscribers advised as we progress. Currently, LWVBA pays a small, per-article stipend to *Monitor* contributors, which will be continued for all approved contributors within the League and outside freelancers. If you are interested or want to make a recommendation of individual to go on our contributor list, email lwvbayarea@gmail.com.

Subscribe to Bay Area Monitor and Monitor Notes by sending an email to:

<https://bayareamonitor.org/subscribe/>

ALAMEDA COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

Representatives from six Alameda County Leagues meet for the final bi-monthly meeting of the 2022-2023 fiscal year on May 6. Our Syeda Inamdar completes the LWVFNUC term to Chair the Alameda County Council of LWV at the end of June. The representative appointed by LWV-Oakland will take the next rotation as Chair.

Dates to Remember

Date	Event	Time	Location
May 9	Action Committee Meeting	10-12	Zoom: To attend, contact Miriam Keller miriamkel@comcast.net
May 18	"Watch Party" and discussion	Noon – 2 pm	Meeting room, Fremont Cultural Arts Center/League Office, 3375 Country Drive, Fremont
May 19-21	League of Women Voters of California Convention		Hyatt Regency Downtown SOMA San Francisco Registration information at lwvc.wordpress.com
May 25	Board Meeting	6-8 pm	Zoom: To attend, contact Angelina Reyes for link president@lwvfnuc.org
June 10	Annual Meeting (and Peter Starr's birthday)	8 am breakfast 9 am meeting	Acacia Creek 34400 Mission Blvd., Union City Registration information in Call to the Annual Meeting coming this month