



Laura Lyon White was an American activist, best known for founding the California Club, working to preserve groves of redwoods in California, and promoting the City Beautiful movement and was an ardent suffragist.

White joined the campaign for women's votes in California in 1896. To that end, she organized the 41st Assembly District Club. Initially unsuccessful at securing suffrage, White refocused her activity on issues of interest to women generally. In San Francisco in 1897, she founded the California Club, a civic association that soon numbered 500 women as charter members. The California Club championed child welfare, the establishment of kindergartens, compulsory schooling, and developing the state's juvenile court system. To protect women, White worked to reform state hospitals for the insane and to pass anti vice legislation. The Club

sought to regulate smoking, public baths, tenements, and workshops

The Club expanded its influence by linking up with other clubs in the state. In 1900, White and Clara Bradley Burdette founded the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC). At the organizing convention, delegates selected Burdette as president and White as first vice-president.

White was instrumental in securing 1,400,000 signatures to protect the Calaveras "Big Trees tract, a stand of ancient giant sequoia trees and adjacent forest in the Sierra Nevada. Unfortunately, the tract did not gain protection until after her death.

White and the California Club also launched a campaign to protect a stand of coastal redwoods in Marin County, known as Redwood Canyon. In January 1908, Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed it the Muir Woods National Monument.

Working at the national level, White chaired the forestry committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs from 1910 to 1912.

White was once again elected president of the California Club in 1910. The Club was a significant supporter of San Francisco's bid to host the 1915 Panama–Pacific International Exposition. White founded the Woman's Board and was instrumental in securing Phoebe Hearst as its honorary president.

Laura Lyon White died in San Francisco on 18 January 1916