

President's Message

Hello Everyone!

I would first like to start by saying thank you for giving me the opportunity to hold the position of interim-president while **Rollin Richmond** gets to know the newest addition to his family!

I would also like to thank **Anne Hartline, Judy Bennett, Kathy Johanson, Byrd Lochtie,** and **Mary Lowry** for all of their hard work to assemble membership meetings, Facebook and web communications, grant opportunities, and collaborations with NAMI to bring our community together.

Nancy Kay, Elizabeth Smith, Byrd Lochtie, and I attended the Next Gen Eureka gathering at Arts Alive! on November 5. The turnout was great, especially with the younger crowd. We did have some people stop by our booth who were interested in joining the League and/or donating, so great job ladies.

Now that the election is over, we all can take a deep breath and rest, although our work is never through. I look forward to working with all of you for future events. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Celeste Ruiz
Interim President

Mark Your Calendars for April 7, 2017 - the 26th Annual State of the Community Luncheon at the Adorni Center, Eureka

This year we are honoring Marianne Pennekamp for her many contributions to our community, as well as Access Humboldt, our community television station.

Our Keynote Speaker will be Julie Fulkerson, and the Chair of the Board of Supervisors will give the State of the Community speech.

Watch your VOTER for information about ticket

It's Time for Program Planning

by Judy Bennett

Happy New Year Leaguers! As a New Year's resolution, let's plan to get together to discuss ways in which our League can increase our action and outreach into and beyond Humboldt County. The League of Women Voters is a truly grassroots organization which sets its agenda through the Program Planning process each year. As members, this is our chance to help choose what we want our local and State League futures to be.

**Join us: 2 – 4 PM, Sunday, January 22
The Area One Agency on Aging Building,
434 7th Street in Eureka.**

We'll discuss League policy and positions at the state and local levels. Where should the State League focus its energies for the next two years? What are the areas of concern for us in Humboldt County? Where is there a need for legislative activity and advocacy both in Sacramento and here at home?

Advocacy is a key League activity year-round. For example, we supported or opposed 11 of the 17 statewide ballot measures in November, but in addition, 19 bills we supported – from climate change to voting rights – were signed into law this year alone. Bring your Annual Meeting Kit and join us on January 22 for appetizers and a lively discussion about our League priorities for the future! This is your chance to make your voice heard.

purchase and details about our speakers and honorees. The State of the Community Luncheon is the League's primary fundraiser and a time of inspiration! Don't miss it!

Save the Date!

Community Education - The League Was in Demand!

by Nancy Kay

It seems like such a long time ago since we were in the midst of the pre-election day frenzy. And it was a frenzy. Due in part, I believe, to the late delivery of the *Official Voter Information Guide*, the League had several requests for assistance in understanding the ballot propositions and learning the pros and cons of each of them. In addition, the County had several ballot measures, and the cities in the area also contributed a ballot measure or two. We were asked about them all! There were large audiences and small audiences, with young and old, and new and veteran voters. A few of the presentations were taped by Access Humboldt for repetitive airings prior to the election.

Thank you **Deborah Downs, Kay Escarda, Rollin Richmond, Byrd Lochtie, Celeste Ruiz, Anne Hartline, and Becky Simpson** for making these presentations possible. Let me be very clear about these volunteers. Not only did they volunteer (*okay, there was some weeping and pleading on my part*) to show up, but **THEY PREPARED THEMSELVES ON SEVERAL PROPOSITIONS AND MEASURES** presenting and answering questions about them, while being taped. Some of these volunteers researched the propositions and composed scripts. It was a great deal of work, and we should be grateful for and proud of their efforts and the results. I know that I am.

Presentations in about a month's time were made for:

- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- Rotary Club of Eureka
- Access Humboldt studio taping
- Rotary Club of Eureka, again
- HSU, OLLI brown bag event
- Rio Del/Scotia Chamber of Commerce
- Eureka Women's Club
- California Conservation Corp
- John Muir High School
- League presentation at Humboldt County
- Library
- Humboldt County Council of the Blind
- College of the Redwoods
- Arts Alive! with Next Gen Eureka at the
- Eureka Theater

Again, thank you League members for helping to make democracy work!



Planned Parenthood Northern California Choices Breakfast

Planned Parenthood Northern California invites you to –

Choices Breakfast

Friday, January 27, 2017

7:45 a.m. – 9:30 AM (doors open at 7:30)

Elks Lodge (please note the change in venue)

445 Herrick Avenue, Eureka, CA 95503

This year's keynote speaker will be **J. J. Straight, Western Regional Field Manager for Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Planned Parenthood Action Fund.**

A force of nature in the world of advocacy, J. J. comes to the north coast fresh from the 2016 Election frontlines. Come hear what it will take to protect Planned Parenthood and the people we serve in 2017 and beyond. We will come together in solidarity to be inspired, take action, and carry on with our mission.

Please buy your tickets by January 20th - **\$30 in advance, \$40 at the door.**

Available online at: www.ppaction.org/choicesbreakfast or by calling Tia Baratelle (707) 502-3008.

League of Women Voters California November 2016 Election Debrief

by Carol Moon Goldberg, LWVCEF Vice President

Wow...just Wow...

Congratulations and thanks to all our Leagues for the tremendous voter service work performed in the November 2016 Election Season!

Face-to-face voter service work:

1. The LWVUS survey shows over 1,100 voter service events, including voter registration, Pros & Cons presentations, and candidate forums.
2. Requests for Pros & Cons presentations exceeded, sometimes far exceeded, normal numbers. Our League members waded through complex and numerous ballot propositions to give their listeners unbiased information in hundreds of presentations.
3. Leagues wrote their own voter guides, including pros and cons of local ballot measures.
4. Of course, there were numerous candidate forums and voter registration events by our Leagues.
5. Over 200,000 copies of the Easy Voter Guide were distributed throughout the state. This number does not reflect copies downloaded directly from the Easy Voter Guide website.

LWVC online presence:

1. Voter's Edge California's preliminary numbers show approximately 1.7 million visitors to the site looking at multiple pages during the combined primary and general election seasons. This is a thrilling achievement for all who worked on the site.
2. Voter's Edge California formed partnerships with a variety of public media and community groups including CA's four main PBS outlets, NBC and ABC affiliates, two Telemundo affiliates, the

ACLU, CA PTA, and CalPIRG (California Public Interest Research Group).

3. Voter's Edge also partnered with Mi Familia Vota, NALEO, the National Council of La Raza and other Spanish community groups.

4. Mi Familia Vota not only put the Voter's Edge widget on their website, they produced a [video](#) promoting the Easy Voter Guide.

5. Several county registrars placed the Voter's Edge widget on their websites.

6. Voter's Edge California contained Easy Voter Guide and the Pros & Cons in both English and Spanish.

7. Our Voter's Edge California (VEC) county and local coordinators contacted and cajoled 2,053 candidates (45% of all candidates) to place information on VEC so that the general public could learn who they are and what they stand for.

8. Our [CAVotes.org](#) site received 2 1/2 times the amount of traffic that it received in 2014.

9. The top five subjects accessed on [CAVotes.org](#) were the Pros & Cons of ballot measures, Prop 52 in particular, plus the basic voter information of how to register and how to vote by mail.

Please extend the gratitude of the LWVC Board of Directors to your team of voter service directors and volunteers. They carried out the mission and voter service strategy of the League of Women Voters in the best tradition of our 96 year old organization. Well done!

Board Briefs by Patricia-Anne WinterSun

In November and December your board:

designated Vice President Celeste Ruiz as Interim President,

approved up to \$300 for the Area 1 Agency on Aging to provide rides to the polls on 8 November,

and approved the SOCL committee choices for the 2017 Civic Contributions Awards.

Foster Care Position Review

by Judy Bennett

This year our local League has chosen to review in depth our position on Foster Care in Humboldt County.

Our position summary was developed in 1999: Support of services which prevent children from being placed in foster care, and which provide safe and supportive foster care when required.

I encourage you to open your annual meeting kit and review the Foster Care position. It's extensive and covers a variety of thoughts from support of the child to support of the staff involved.

Do you have questions that you want answered? With a firm and correct position in place, League can take a stand to influence government policy and make our community a better place to live.

What has changed? Is it still a good idea to support those services which attempt to keep the child with its parents or should foster care be the first choice? Has the increase in drug use made a difference in the foster care world? How great is the need in Humboldt County? Is it true that some persons go into foster care parenting for the money or is that another urban myth? How is foster care funded? Let's find the answers so we can influence public policy when needed.

We plan to host a panel of education, healthcare, public service individuals and parents who have been involved with foster care to hear what's happened in the 17 years since our League last studied foster care. We need to have a well-rounded panel of both government and private sector personalities to see the entire picture. The date we have set is February 16, 5:30 PM at the Aquatic Center.

Statistics from 2014 report 324 children in foster care in Humboldt County. Most stay in foster care homes for under a year. Over 50% were returned to family homes. Those who remain in foster care often live in five or more homes. Our panel will have more information and statistics to clarify the subject.

If you know someone directly involved in the foster care process in Humboldt County and who might be a good addition to our panel, please contact Anne Hartline or (822-1161) Judy Bennett (443-2855).

The Intersection of the Criminal Justice System and Mental Illness

by Mary Lowry

On Wednesday, November 2, the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County and the National Alliance on Mental illness of Humboldt County presented a panel on the Intersection of the Criminal Justice System and Mental Illness. Despite being held at the same time as the final game of the 2016 World Series, over 100 people attended. The panel included Public Defender, Kevin Robinson; County Mental Health Clinical Psychologist, Mark Lamers; long-time Chief Probation Officer, Bill Damiano; Eureka City Police Chief, Andy Mills; and District Attorney, **Maggie Fleming**.

The panel concluded that jail is no place for a person with a mental illness, and several alternatives were suggested: urgent care centers, intensive case management services, and crisis sanctuaries for those with mental illness who need a respite. In the past, Humboldt County has had a mental health court, and it may be time to try one again. The panelist agreed that adequate housing helps in the prevention of crime.

The audience was engaged and asked numerous questions. Unfortunately, the panel did not have time to respond to all questions. If you missed this event, you may watch the forum on Access Humboldt.

Save the Date!

Community Participation Fair

Thursday, March 16

5:30 to 7:00 PM

**Arcata Community Center
321 Martin Luther King Parkway,
Arcata.**

**This is an event you will not
want to miss.**

Access Humboldt -- Our Own Public Media Company

by Elaine Weinreb

Access Humboldt is our community's very own home-produced television station, radio station, and online archive of public meetings. With major funding from Suddenlink, under the mandate of the Public Utilities Commission, Access Humboldt provides four TV channels in northern Humboldt and one in southern Humboldt for education, civic affairs, and as a free outlet for local videographers.

Local schools, including College of the Redwoods, can use Channel 8 for educational purposes. Meetings of the Board of Supervisors, the Eureka City Council, the Arcata City Council, and the Harbor District are broadcast on Channel 10. Locally made creative videos are featured on Channels 11 and 12. When not running programming, Access Humboldt runs a community bulletin board on the channels.

Twenty dedicated fiber networks are already in place; Access Humboldt can broadcast live from any one of them. They are located in the council and board chambers where public meetings occur, at the Municipal Auditorium, and many other places throughout the county.

These multiple networks are useful for allowing live community participation at some public meetings, without participants having to go very far. For example, during county budget hearings, interaction sites were set up at five different locations, so that people could talk directly to the Board of Supervisors-- and everyone else who was watching.

Access Humboldt has recently introduced a new FM radio station, KZZH-FM -LP at 96.7, which plays recorded public meetings. If you want to hear your local news in depth, this is the station to listen to! Between meetings, KZZH sometimes plays works created by local students. Because this is a low-power station, its reach is limited to Eureka, Arcata, and McKinleyville, although I can pick it up in my driveway in Westhaven!

Access Humboldt also has a very complete website at www.accesshumboldt.net where all its programs are archived. If you need to watch a meeting that occurred three weeks -- or three years ago---you can find it there.

The website is also linked to similar public access stations from all over the nation. Look up your hometown -- if it has a public access station, you can link to it from Access Humboldt's website, and find out what the folks there are doing. It is also linked to internetarchive.org, a non-profit which strives to be the "universal access to all human knowledge" and currently has nearly a quarter of a million videos. It's an interesting place to surf -- you can see some really amazing stuff there, including TED talks, the Big History Project, and PopTech.

Access Humboldt is also a teaching center. In a world where electronic communication is the primary means of spreading information, people can learn how to create, edit, and broadcast their own video productions. Access Humboldt has a complete high-definition TV studio at their central location on the campus of Eureka High School. Equipment can also be checked out for work in the field. You can go out and record an event, then

come back to the station and edit it yourself. You can animate your own graphics. If you have other media that you want to include in your production, the studio also has CD/DVD players, tape players, and even turntables. If you want to stage an event in the studio, you can reserve it and use it. When everything is done, you fill out a form, hand your DVD over to the staff, and they will put it on the air. In addition, Humboldt residents who create their own videos and upload them to You-tube can send the links to Access Humboldt for broadcasting on the local channels.

Of course, you must know how to use all this equipment, and you can learn by becoming a member and taking a few classes at the studio. Classes are given twice a month and a small fee is charged, in addition to the initial membership fee.

Access Humboldt is especially interested in teaching the next generation these essential skills, and works closely with Eureka High School, HSU, College of the Redwoods, the County Dept. of Human Services, the Arcata Arts Institute, and the Eel River Multi-generational Project to achieve this. They are also planning to work with the *Times Standard* to teach reporters how to do online reporting.

Media creators are encouraged -- but not required -- to use a "Creative Commons" copyright, which allows them to keep their basic right to their work while allowing others some rights to use the work.

Access Humboldt believes strongly in free speech, and they do not edit or censor anything that is given to them. They do require the creator to sign a form taking full responsibility for libel. The only restriction is that if a video contains "adult" material, the creators are required to indicate this, and then it is played only during "safe hours" in the middle of the night.

Access Humboldt also serves as a communication center for the creative community, bringing together local people who have skills and know-how to produce non-commercial media projects. If you write, design web pages, perform, edit, create videos, or have stage skills, you may want to connect with this group called the Humboldt Interactive Pool or HIP.

Access Humboldt and the League have long worked together. The League was instrumental in Access Humboldt's formation, and Access Humboldt has recorded and broadcast many of the League's forums.

Access Humboldt has 232 members. This year, Access Humboldt has broadcast more than 500 hours of local programming. Orientation sessions on Access Humboldt's activities and facilities are offered free to the public every second Saturday of the month.

In addition to all this, Access Humboldt acts as a watchdog for public access to TV channels both at the state and at the federal levels.

Welcome New LWVHC Members:



Welcome New Board Member Andrea Enyedi

Meet **Andrea Enyedi** - new Humboldt County resident, social justice activist, and HSU's Director of Early Outreach Programs.

Andrea recently moved to McKinleyville, California from Kalamazoo, Michigan to join her husband Alex, HSU's new Provost and V.P. of Academic Affairs. She is delighted to be living near the ocean and redwoods, and is looking forward to her first snow-less winter! Prior to Michigan, Andrea lived in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ontario, Canada.

She brings 30 years of experience in nonprofit administration and social justice efforts related to poverty reduction, family literacy, school readiness, gender equity, and LGBTQ issues.

Andrea currently works at HSU overseeing outreach efforts to promote college access for low-income, first-generation, and other traditionally underrepresented students. In November 2016, Andrea was appointed to the LWVHC board to serve as Publicity Chairperson.

Help the LWVC and Gain Leadership Experience Online

Helen Hutchison, *President*

LWVC Bylaws Committee Role

Want a fun and educational experience doing good work, all remotely? Apply to serve on the LWVC Bylaws Committee: <https://lwvc.org/about/job-opportunities>

Being part of the League is something people admire and respect. Imagine featuring League work on your resume and on LinkedIn! Apply for a spot on the LWVC Bylaws Committee: <https://lwvc.org/about/job-opportunities>

Do you picture yourself as a California or US League leader? The LWVC Bylaws Committee is a stepping stone! Apply now: <https://lwvc.org/about/job-opportunities>

Are you a League member who wants to build your skills, experiences, and relationships in California? Apply for the LWVC Bylaws Committee: <https://lwvc.org/about/job-opportunities>

League Shares Holiday Cheer!

by Anne Hartline

In case you weren't there, we had a great League holiday party on December 6! Over 30 Leaguers gathered for great food, lively beverages, and scintillating conversation, a reminder once again about how much fun we can have when we all get together. Following such a busy election season, it was wonderful to gather and relax! A warm thank you goes out to **Leslie** and Marty Leach for their hospitality at their lovely home!

Our Mission Statement...

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

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!



Become a Member!

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women aged 16 and up.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

Membership dues and donations to the LWVHC are not tax-deductible. Donations to the LWVHC-Education Fund, through the Humboldt Area Foundation, are tax-deductible.

Annual Dues are due each year on July 1.

Visit www.LWVHC.org or mail the form below!

Yes! I want to join the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County and become a voice for citizens and a force for change. I am enclosing for my annual membership:

- \$60 Individual membership
- \$90 Household membership
- \$60 Associate membership
- Please accept my donation of _____
- Please send me more information
- I am interested in becoming a board member

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Please make checks payable to LWVHC, P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502.

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

434 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502
www.lwvhc.org vote@lwvhc.org
(707) 444-9252

Who's Who in Your League Board

ADMINISTRATION

President Rollin Richmond
 Vice President..... Celeste Ruiz
 Past President..... Kathy Johanson
 Secretary..... Patricia-Anne WinterSun
 Treasurer..... Deborah Downs
 Director..... Judy Bennett
 Director..... Andrea Enyedi
 Director..... Nancy Kay
 Director..... Julie Kelly
 Director..... Leslie Leach
 Director..... Byrd Lochtie
 Director..... Mary Lou Lowry
 Director..... Carol Masterson
 Director..... Becky Simpson
 Director..... Liz Smith
 Director..... Elaine Weinreb

PORTFOLIO DIRECTORS

Government Julie Kelly and Liz Smith
 Natural Resources Patricia-Anne WinterSun
 Program Judy Bennett
 Publicity Chair Andrea Enyedi
 Social Policy Mary Lou Lowry

Governance Chair Byrd Lochtie
 Historian Carole Ziskin
 Membership Becky Simpson
 Nominating Committee Chair Alex Stillman
 Publications Lorey Keele
 Communications Support Kathy Johanson

FUNDRAISING

Marathon Fundraiser Kay Escarda
 Poll Workers Fundraiser..... Carolyn Otis
 State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL)
 Committee Chair..... Judy Bennett

COMMUNICATIONS

Access Humboldt Rep..... Elaine Weinreb
 Publicity Andrea Enyedi
 Social Media ... Kathy Johanson and Celeste Ruiz

Website Kathy Johanson
 VOTER Publication Leslie Leach
 VOTER Circulation Carolyn Otis

VOTER SERVICE

Voter Service Director Becky Simpson
 Candidate Forums Carol Masterson

 **Find Us on Facebook!**

LWV of HUMBOLDT COUNTY

THE VOTER

P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

Get Involved!

We all have a unique set of skills to contribute and limited time to afford. Working together we become a viable force for change. Call or email today to say you want to participate.

Visit www.lwvhc.org or call (707) 444-9252.

Our Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. Not only shall there be no barriers to membership and participation in the LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, nor political affiliation, but also the LWVHC will actively seek to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, board and programs.

Making Democracy Work!

LWVHC Calendar

Tue., Jan. 3 5:30 PM	Board Meeting League Office 434 7th St., Eureka
Sun., Jan. 22 2-4 PM	LWVHC Program Planning League Office 434 7th St., Eureka
Fri. Jan. 27 7:45-9:30 AM	Planned Parenthood Choices Breakfast Elks Lodge 445 Herrick Ave., Eureka
Tue. Feb. 7 5:30 PM	Board Meeting League Office 434 7th St., Eureka
