

## *President's Message*

Dear League Members:

Time seems to go by so fast these days, and there are always reports in the news that raise concerns. But, when I remember that I am now helping the League of Women Voters, it raises my spirits because of all that you do to protect our democracy and the future for our children and grandchildren. Thank you again.

One of the issues raising concern in our community is the possibility that the Supervisors will allow a marijuana processing plant to be constructed along the Mad River near sites that collect water for several local communities. Thanks to **Elaine Weinreb**, Co-Chair of Natural Resources, for drafting a letter to the Supervisors that she will present to them when it is on their agenda. Our letter ends as follows:

“The League of Women Voters respectfully asks the Board of Supervisors to overturn the Planning Commission’s approval, to deny Mercer-Fraser’s request to build a cannabis-processing plant at this location, and to deny the associated zoning change. Let’s not take chances with our drinking water, which is essential to life itself.”

**Michele Fell-Casale**, who is our Vice President, did an excellent job organizing the Local Program Planning meetings for the League last month. Please see her message elsewhere in this issue.

At our February Board meeting, we had the pleasure of listening to a Humboldt State University student, **Raphael Kasobel**, who wishes to increase the number of eligible students who are registered to vote. He is working with **Anne Hartline** and me to develop ways to increase the registration of students.

## *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!**

Raphael is now a member of the League and is working with faculty and staff at HSU to develop ways to educate students about the importance of registering and voting. He has a number of very interesting ideas about ways to register more students. It is a pleasure to have Raphael working with us.

As many of you know, **Byrd Lochtie** has done a great deal to assist local Native American tribes with their elections. Several of us helped her to prepare for the upcoming Bear River election. Byrd has worked closely with tribal leaders and responded well to their requests. Thanks to all of you who have helped Byrd with these important endeavors.

The recent school shootings and others over the last decade and beyond are pressing our politicians to develop legislation to reduce or eliminate these horrible events. The national LWVUS is supporting the National Student Walkout Day on March 14 to encourage our politicians to act for us and our children. I encourage you to participate with local groups if there are local marches.

Have a good month and thanks again for all that you do.

**Rollin C. Richmond**  
President

Humboldt's Drinking Water Endangered  
By  
**Elaine Weinreb**

Most of Humboldt County enjoys drinking water of unusually high quality. Pumped up from the sands of the riverbed underneath the Mad River, near Glendale, the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District is responsible for collecting and purifying the water which goes to Eureka, Arcata, and McKinleyville, and a number of smaller communities.

Many residents were horrified to learn that construction company, Mercer-Fraser, was recently given a permit by the County Planning Commission to construct a "cannabis-processing facility", more commonly known as a hash lab, on a parcel just adjacent to the Water District's intake wells.

The plant will use toxic chemical solvents, which if they were to enter the water supply, would be beyond the capacity of the Water District to remove. In short, our fine drinking water would become toxic, and the plant would have to shut down. Unfortunately, this would leave about two-thirds of the county's residents without water. Mercer-Fraser has said this is unlikely to occur, but this is one clear situation where the risks outweigh the benefits, especially since the risk is to thousands of otherwise uninvolved people, and the benefit is to one company.

People are upset. The Water District has filed an appeal with the County Board of Supervisors, which has the authority to overturn decisions made by the Planning Commission. What makes the problem even worse, is that a zoning change was simultaneously made to the property in question, converting it from "agricultural" to "heavy industrial" zoning. So even if this one particular project is denied, any kind of heavy industry could open its doors on that property, and we could be in exactly the same situation in the future. For that reason, the Water District is also requesting the Board of Supervisors to reverse the zoning change made by the Planning Commission. The LWV, along with other concerned citizens and organizations did not speak at the February 27 hearing.

LWVHC Local Program Planning Meeting  
By  
**Michele Fell**

The LWVHC Local Program Planning Meeting was held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 with 15 members in attendance. In accordance with direction from members at the 2017 Annual Meeting, the meeting focused on a review of the Education position. The group separated into the four areas included in the Position: Curriculum, Support Services, Communication and Administration/Management. After discussion, each group reported back with its recommendations/suggestions. The results of the meeting will be presented to the Board at the March Board meeting. A special thank you to Jessica Snow, who volunteered to be our recorder.

Be a part of the LWVC Climate Change Task Force first Climate Change Education Event

The LWVC Climate Change Task Force and the LWV Palo Alto will host featured speaker: Chris Field, Director of Stanford Woods Institute for an Education event - Food Production and Greenhouse Gases: Counting Carb Emissions on March 6, 2018: 12 pm - 1 p.m. Attend via webinar or join the live audience at the Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 E Bayshore Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Presentation begins promptly at noon. Please allow about 10 minutes for logging in if attending the webinar.

Chris Field's presentation focuses on how food production impacts greenhouse gas emission levels with the resulting climate change consequences. This topic has increased significance to League members in California, now that part of Governor Brown's climate change initiative includes addressing the impact of food production.

For webinar attendance:  
Please RSVP and reserve your seat at the webinar. Webinar spaces are limited, so please reserve early. Cut and paste this link into your browser.

Avenue of the Giants Marathon - Again!  
By  
**Kay Escarda**

Our League has been staffing an aid station for the Avenue of the Giants Marathon for over two decades. It's always the first Sunday in May. This year that is May 6th. It will be here before you know it. This is my annual invitation to join us for a fantastic day in the redwoods while we minister to those energetic, and sometimes, in-need-of-assistance runners.

We dispense fluids, bananas and oranges, first aid supplies and encouragement while monitoring to see that all runners stay safe. A couple of thousand runners pass by, some partaking of our services, others just flying by! Quite exciting. We fly our League banner and in turn receive many thanks and kudos for the work we do. It's a pretty big PR plus for League! We also earn some \$\$\$\$'s for our treasury.

We meet a couple of miles north of Meyers Flat on the Avenue about 9:00 a.m. and finish up a little after noon. We usually tailgate while we wait for the Boy Scout volunteers to pick up the station supplies. When we leave for home, we feel we have accomplished something really useful as well as fun.

To join us this year, email **Kay Escarda**, [kay.escarda@gmail.com](mailto:kay.escarda@gmail.com) or phone for more info at 442-7495. If you can't catch me, my FFCM (Forever Faithful **Carol Masterson**) has volunteered again to sign you up also. Carol, [buffy7@suddenlink.net](mailto:buffy7@suddenlink.net) or 768-3118. Please be one of the dozen or so Leaguers who make this such a successful event. Sign up today!

**Welcome New Members**

Janet Biasca

Delores Freitas

Raphael Kasobel

***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 of all ages.

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](http://www.LWVHC.org) or mail the form below! Please make checks payable to LWVHC, P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502.

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:

- \$75 Individual membership
- \$105 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Betty Diehl, Ferndale Choir to be Honored in  
April  
By  
**Debbe Hartridge**

Betty Diehl and the Ferndale Community Choir will be honored for their contributions to the well-being of our community at the State of the Community Luncheon, April 20. NAMI Humboldt (National Alliance on Mental Illness), our other honoree, was featured in the Voter last month.

The Ferndale Community Choir, under the inspired leadership of Betty Diehl for 48 years, is one of those local treasures that make life here on the Northcoast so rich. After Betty moved to Ferndale with her family, she and another young minister's wife started a church choir that in time evolved to include community members from all over the county. One of the current members has been singing with the group for 38 years.

The 50-60 voice choir, which performs two repertoires each year (a spring and a Christmas concert) was "discovered" last fall by organizers of a November 2017 concert of Handel's Messiah at Carnegie Hall and invited to participate. Which they did! The choir raised funds to travel to New York City and perform with about 500 singers from around the globe in front of a full house at the nation's most prestigious concert venue.

They were chosen because they are a local choir with members of different ages and walks of life who sing a demanding repertory of sacred music every year. They do three concerts in the spring and three before Christmas, at the Ferndale Community Church, the Catholic Church in Ferndale and at Christ Episcopal Church in Eureka. They start practicing 12 weeks prior to each concert season. That's a lot of concerts and a lot of rehearsing.

Quoting from their web page:

*"The Choir sings ancient melodies, rousing spirituals, and modern works, making choral music accessible to concert-goers with unpretentious passion, great diction, and the joy of making music together. Over the years, more than 500 people have put on green robes and yellow stoles to sing with the Choir. Every season 50 to 60 people of all different faiths – and of no faith – from 15 to 91 years old, from dairymen to doctors, and from seven different towns gather in Ferndale for rehearsals."*

Get your tickets now to the League's major fundraiser and celebration of community! See the Voter or our webpage for details.

What is the Electoral College and Should it Be  
Abolished?

By

**Anne Hartline**

This question has surfaced and resurfaced over the years, with many people expressing, with some embarrassment, that they really do not understand what the Electoral College is and/or why it was originally put into place. Let's get together in true League fashion and discuss this timely and important aspect to our national election process.

Join your League for a discussion of the United States Electoral College on March 18th from 2:00 – 3:30pm at the Area 1 Agency on Aging office at 434 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Eureka. We will review some great materials prepared by The League of Women Voters of Illinois, and together we will discuss how we want our representatives at LWVUS National Convention to respond to this call to action.

***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

**Who's Who on Your League Board  
2017-18**

**ADMINISTRATION**

President.....Rollin Richmond  
Vice President.....Michelle Fell-Casale  
Secretary.....Patricia-Anne WinterSun  
Treasurer.....Deborah Downs  
Director.....Leslie Leach  
Director.....Byrd Lochtie  
Director.....Carol Masterson  
Director.....Anne Hartline  
Director.....Becky Simpson  
Director.....Kathy Johanson  
Director.....Celeste Ruiz  
Director.....Julie Kelly  
Director.....Mary Lou Lowry  
Director.....Keith Snow-Flamer

**PORTFOLIO DIRECTORS**

Government.....Julie Kelly  
Natural Resources.....Leslie Leach  
Social Policy.....Mary Lou Lowry  
Program .....Michelle Fell-Casale  
Governance Chair.....Byrd Lochtie  
Historian.....Vacant  
Membership.....Becky Simpson  
Nominating Committee Chair.....Alex Stillman  
Publications.....Lorey Keele  
Communications Support.....Kathy Johanson

***The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County***

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**Who's Who on Your League Board  
2017-18**

**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  
Social Media.....Kathy Johanson  
Website.....Kathy Johanson  
VOTER Publication.....Keith Snow-Flamer  
VOTER Circulation.....Carolyn Otis

**VOTER SERVICE**

Voter Service Director.....Becky Simpson  
Candidate Forums.....Carol Masterson  
Citizen Education.....Vacant  
Election Service.....Byrd Lochtie



P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

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## ***Get Involved!***

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

Visit [www.lwvhc.org](http://www.lwvhc.org) or call (707) 444-9252.

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## ***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.

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## ***Making Democracy Work!***

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## ***LWVHC Calendar***

Tuesday, March 6  
Monthly Board Meeting  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Location: 434 7th Street, Eureka

Tuesday, April 3  
Monthly Board Meeting  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Location: 434 7th Street, Eureka

Friday, April 20  
State of the Community Luncheon  
Time: Noon  
Location: The Adorni Center

Tuesday, May 1, 2018  
Monthly Board Meeting  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Location: 434 7th Street, Eureka

Sunday, May 6, 2018  
Avenue of the Giants Marathon  
Time: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm  
Call Kay @ 442-7495 for directions

Thursday, May 24, 2018  
Annual Meeting  
Time: TBD  
Location: TBD

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