



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 57 No. 9

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## President's Message

Hello Everyone!

Happy Autumn, everyone! We love the sunshine and our rain keeping us green. I've loved those foggy mornings! Many of you have been busy with League activities and we appreciate your participation. Special thanks to those volunteers who helped us finish a successful service to the Fortuna Fire Protection District in record time October 20th. It was time well spent and very interesting too. We earned funds for the League to boot!

Our program meetings on October 22nd and November 15th helped us come to consensus about our positions on the Adult and Juvenile Detention Facilities and the Grand Jury. We also registered many new voters in October, always good to see. Whenever you can lend a hand or your voice, it helps us do good work in the community making democracy work. Thank you all.

Did you manage to see the new movie *Suffragette*? It's wonderful to see how far we've come after 100 years. We are very grateful to have had the commitment of dedicated women like Carey Mulligan to pave the way and inspire us to greater service.

Your board continues to provide member opportunities for all of you to engage in the League

## Save the Date! Saturday, December 5

### LWVHC Holiday Party

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME...

2-4 pm at Anne Hartline's Home, 2249 Graham Road, Bayside  
Call 707-822-1161 for directions.  
Please bring a potluck appetizer or dessert to share.

In addition, please bring a canned food item and/or a gift suitable for a teenage girl.

Board Members, please note, there will be a brief Board meeting at 1 before the party.

and share your voice. We've continued to offer these opportunities alternately on Thursdays and Sundays each month hoping to engage more members after our successful meetings last year. Remember, if you have any suggestions, we'd love to hear from you. We also hope to see you all at the League Holiday Party to celebrate all our efforts thus far.

-Kathy Johanson  
Co-President

## 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.

**MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!**

## ***LWVHC Board Briefs***

In October, your LWVHC board

Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fortuna Fire Department to provide election service for their vote by mail election.

Agreed to spend up to \$500 on a laptop computer for the office and explore reusing our computer.

Agreed to pay for another person to attend the Public Engagement seminar in October.

Approved a letter to the Arcata Police Department encouraging the reinstatement of the juvenile diversion program.

Agreed to spend up to \$200 to buy a tablet w/internet dongle that we might register voters online outdoors.

*-Patricia-Anne WinterSun  
Secretary*

## ***NorCAN Conference***

Dear Leaguers,

Thanks to your Board, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Seventh Northern California Association of Nonprofits (NorCAN) Conference in October. It was great to meet so many people from different civic organizations, some of whom are now new acquaintances.

During the conference, I learned that holding a space of silence during discussion in meetings could help those less inclined to jump into discussions develop their thoughts in time to contribute. I also learned to define very carefully and frame the problem under consideration, asking process questions as well as defining questions. I am looking forward to applying these ideas in my life as well as in the League.

Thank you,

*-Patricia-Anne WinterSun  
Secretary*

## ***Observer Notes***

*Sometimes our Observers attend meetings and there are no issues that are relevant to LWV state or local positions or there is nothing on the agenda that calls for action by the League.*

For example, Mary Lou Lowry observed the Behavioral Health Board Meeting in September and reported this item of interest:

There was a presentation about the Children's Mental Health Collaborative. The board said they would have a discussion about the presentation next month. The collaborative intervenes in early years so children will not grow up in an adverse environment. The collaborative teaches infant massage, sets up play groups and offers parenting education.

*Sometimes our Observers learn about issues, and we don't have a position that allows us to take action:*

I observed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission meeting in October and reported this item that may require study before we can take action:

There was a presentation about Game Over, an organization formed to provide assistance, education, and advocacy for sex trafficking survivors as well as to educate the public on how to prevent, identify and assist the sexually trafficked. This start up organization will be looking for letters of support as they try to secure funding to continue their work.

If you would like to become a League Observer, or if you are already attending a public meeting and would like to report back to the League, please contact Krista Miller at [kmiller@backwoodssolar.com](mailto:kmiller@backwoodssolar.com)

*-Paula Blackshear  
Director, Social Policy*

## ***Congratulations League Members!***

At the recent NorCAN Nonprofit Conference held at the River Lodge in Fortuna, **Elizabeth R. “Beth” Matsumoto** was honored with the **2015 Nonprofit Leadership Achievement Award**. Her nonprofit service has included many years with Housing Humboldt, where she now serves as Co-Executive Director. In her work there, she has provided leadership and expertise for staff, clients, the Board of Directors, and county officials. Her energy, good management, and efficiency have brought many benefits to the housing community. She has also served on a number of other boards and fund-raising committees in the Humboldt County nonprofit world.

Beth has served as President, Vice-President, and Publicity Director of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County. She has been on the State of the Community Luncheon Committee and has moderated candidate and issues forums, both on KEET-TV and in the community. She and her husband are raising two young children. The 2015 Nonprofit Leadership Achievement Award is awarded after much deliberation by a committee considering many deserving people.

The League congratulates Beth on being selected for this honor and commends her for her leadership in our community.



Beth Matsumoto (second from left) -Recipient of the 2015 Nonprofit Leadership Achievement Award

**Dr. Milton Boyd**, a long-time League member, was recently honored as the **Arcata Marsh Volunteer of the Year**. The award was presented by the Friends of the Arcata Marsh at their annual meeting and volunteer appreciation luncheon on October 4, 2015. Milt is an emeritus professor of biological sciences at Humboldt State University and has always been involved in the community. He has volunteered at the marsh since 2011, where he leads interpretive tours, staffs the welcome desk and tables at community outreach events, such as HSU volunteer recruitment day and the Godwit Festival. He has been a poll worker for many years and a League volunteer when needed. We are proud that Milt is a League member, and we congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.



League member **Judy Geppert**, a retired teacher and member of Division 27 of the California Retired Teachers Association, was recently honored as the 2015 recipient of the Hugh Stewart Award, given annually by CalRTA since 1995.

Judy was a teacher at Winship Middle School, and served in a number of capacities in the Eureka Teachers Association, including president. Since her retirement, Judy has been active in the California Retired Teachers Association as president-elect, president, and past president. Judy has been an active member of the League, most recently helping with ballot counting for the Fortuna Fire Protection District. She has volunteered to help with a number of elections for Bear River, and she has been seen working on candidate forums.

We congratulate Judy on her newest honor!

-Byrd Lochtie  
Co-President

## *Voter Service*

### **'Tis the Season to be Thankful**

Thanks to our stellar Voter Service volunteers, we have something to talk about in this off-year election season: near-record voter registrations on both days at the North Country Fair, a League table on both days at the North Coast Stand Down, a table to register students at HSU on National Voter Registration Day, (September 22) two broadcast candidate forums on KEET-TV, and three out in the community.

I'm going to give you a short list of people to thank, and you're going to think, "However did those few manage to pull off all those events?" The answer, of course, is that most of them worked at more than one and several worked at several. These people are dedicated, people! They transported props, put up and took down the booth, helped voters register, answered questions, answered phones, ran the stopwatch, sorted questions, moderated, and handed out index cards.

Here they are: **Peg Gardner, Judy Stoffer, Carol Johnson, George Ojala, Anne Hartline, Deborah Downs, Kay Escarda, Judy Geppert, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Byrd Lochtie, Helen Hui, Rudy Ramp, Paula Blackshear, Bev Strubinger, Audrey Miller, Alan Lowry, Donna Clark, George Winter-Sun, Rollin Richmond, Becky Simpson and Holly Couling.**

We also thank our friends at KEET-TV--- staff, volunteers, and management--- for their ongoing support of our mission, and the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, the McKinleyville Parent Teacher Organization, and the Manila Community Services District for sponsoring our community forums.

*Carol Masterson*

*Director, Candidate Forums*

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

### **A Magnificent Work Party!**

On Tuesday, October 20th, a large crew of Leaguers showed up at the CCC Conference Center in Fortuna to count the ballots for the Fortuna Fire Protection District special assessment election. This involved opening all the ballots and separating them into "YES" and "NO" votes. Then we entered the code number and the number of "units" for each property into either a "YES" computer or a "NO" computer. The computer program would enable the calculation of the value of each ballot's vote. Because this was an assessment, the final result is based on the vote's monetary value rather than an individual's vote. The value of the "YES" votes was eleven percent more than the value of the "NO" votes. We carefully counted the actual number of votes and compared with the computer program's number of counted ballots, to be sure everything matched. The League provided a neutral group to count the ballots in order to limit any concerns about the validity of the results.

Because we had so many volunteers, we were able to complete this process in one day, rather than the two or three days we originally estimated. I want to thank everyone, including those who would have helped but couldn't because they were voters in this election. Thank you so much to my Tuesday crew, and to those who agreed to work on Wednesday and Thursday if I needed them: **Becky Simpson, Judy Geppert, Kay Escarda, Helen Andrews, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Bev Post, Mary Lou Lowry, Kathy Johanson, Kathie Simas, Keith Kons, Nancy and Don Quintrell, Peg Gardner, Carol Masterson, Willa Mauro, Deborah Downs, Beth Bray, and Sarah Reid.** I was pleased to see that some of you carpoled to Fortuna; I appreciate all of you for whatever time you were able to give. It was a real bonus that we had so much help that we could wrap up by 3 PM on Tuesday when the police arrived to transport the counted ballots to safe storage.

Thank you, everyone!

*-Byrd Lochtie  
Co-President*

## More Voter Service

LatinoNet - Festejando Nuestra Salud

**Deborah Downs, Kathy Johanson, and Laura Hennings** worked the table at the LatinoNet Festejando Nuestra Salud on October 18<sup>th</sup> and registered seven voters in the afternoon. They were assisted by Brenda Urueta for interpretation services. It was a great event with lots of vendors, good food, and great music.

-Deborah Downs  
Treasurer



**Carol Masterson and George Ojala,**  
League Members



An unusual tattoo. Now THAT'S dedication!

## Space Available

Nearly forty years ago I joined the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County. I was awed by the women of this organization. They were poised, confident, intelligent, educated, and passionate about government. Taking leadership was too daunting for a twenty something person with not much confidence and no college degree. Over the years, I have attended meetings, helped with candidates' forums, and read the Pros and Cons before voting. To say I was active is a stretch.

As I approached retirement I was a bit more confident, and I was ready to say "yes" when I was asked to consider serving on the Board. However, before I was elected to the Board, my husband and I purchased a house in the Bay Area and we will be moving in December.

The short time I served as a member of the board has been a good time. As Social Policy Director and an observer, I got to watch the workings of several government agencies and help with the updating of the League positions on The Grand Jury and Adult and Juvenile Detention Facilities and Programs.

I would encourage you to say yes when asked to be a board member (or you could even volunteer.) The board members are very committed and practice the civility that they are looking for in government agencies. There is space available to fill my slot and there are lots of nice people on the board to help you find your niche.

Paula Blackshear  
-Director, Social Policy



## Public Engagement Seminar

Public Engagement: the Vital Leadership Skill

On October 22nd several local **League** members attended the Public Engagement seminar offered through Humboldt State's Extended Education program and hosted by Pete Peterson of the Davenport Institute-Pepperdine School of Public Policy, **Carol Rische**, former General Manager of Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (and LWVHC member), Mary Gelinas and Roger James of Gelinas James Inc.(also of Cascadia Center for Leadership).

This inspiring session began with why public engagement is important to us, why it is vital, and the spectrum of ways to engage. The presenters chose to focus their limited time on the process of strengthening our ability to incorporate the public comment exchanges to help set policy and solve specific problems. Indeed this seems to be the challenge at hand.

Some of the suggestions and stories of successes all had elements of developing public engagement, not as a single purpose, but as a spectrum of processes by which the public is empowered to develop alternatives in a neutral environment. As exemplified by an article handed out at the seminar from [icma.org](http://icma.org) written by Ed Everett, our existing model is "bitch and fix." The proposed new mode is a partnership with residents. It seems to work, as evidenced by Carol Rische's HBMWB stories as well as examples given by the other presenters. Like a partnership wheel with any local issue at the center this new model starts with having the purpose determine the process. Included in this is a change in attitude on the part of local leaders and citizens, with an emphasis on listening to the community and a sharing of power.

A majority of attendees at this seminar came from local government and nonprofits. I would say it looks as though Humboldt County public officials are re-thinking the way they reach decisions with residents who are willing to take some responsibility for the quality of life in their communities.

Look for more from Humboldt State University's College of eLearning & Extended Education offering a Certificate Program in Leading Community and Organizational Change beginning in January 2016 ([humboldt.edu/locc](http://humboldt.edu/locc)). Additional resources can be found at [icma.org](http://icma.org), and [publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu](http://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu).

A local resource is [cascadialeadership.org](http://cascadialeadership.org), and check out what worked for the Humboldt Municipal Water Board at [hbmwd.com/water-resource-planning](http://hbmwd.com/water-resource-planning).

-Krista Miller

### **WANTED** SPANISH SPEAKING **COMMUNITY LIAISON**

The League is looking for a member, preferably bi-lingual, who is passionate about increasing voting and inclusion of the Spanish-speaking community members.

The Liaison will attend LatinoNet's membership meetings and report to the board, in-person or via a written report. The Liaison will also coordinate tabling at LatinoNet's annual Health Fair (October).

The Liaison will be supported by the board and membership as needed

### **WANTED** SMART VOTER COORDINATOR

Please contact **Kathy Johanson** or **Byrd Lochtie** to find out how you can help voters learn about candidates on SmartVoter.

### **REMINDER!**



December 1st State of the Community Luncheon Nominations for Community Contributions Awards are due.

*Happy Holidays*

**Smartvoter.org**

The place for you if you are looking for:

- ★ Nonpartisan election information
- ★ How to Register to Vote
- ★ Information about the voting process
- ★ Your ballot issues
- ★ Your polling place



*Looking For a Few Good Leaders!*

If you are an experienced leader or would like to gain experience, the League has a place for you!

**“Voter apathy is a civic abdication.”**  
 – Charles M. Blow

*If You Haven't Already*

**Join the League!** Membership in the League is open to all U.S. citizens of voting age, both women and men. Others may join as associate members.

**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:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Individual membership   | <input type="checkbox"/> I cannot join at this time, but please accept my donation of _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Household membership    | <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me more information                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Associate membership    | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be contacted by the nominating committee           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional donation of _____ |   |

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to LWVHC, P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502. 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. For more information call 444-9252. **Annual Dues are due each year on July 1.**

*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 in Your League Board 2015-2016**

- Co-Presidents..... Byrd Lochtie, Kathy Johanson
- Vice President..... Krista Miller
- Past President..... Anne Hartline
- Secretary ..... Patricia-Anne WinterSun
- Treasurer.....Deborah Downs
- Director..... Lilach Assayag
- Director..... Paula Blackshear
- Director..... Beth Bray
- Director..... Laura Hennings
- Director..... Leslie Leach
- Director..... Carol Masterson
- Director..... Rollin Richmond
- Director..... Kathie Simas
- Director.....Becky Simpson

**ACTION**

- Action ..... Laura Hennings
- Program ..... Krista Miller
- Natural Resources..... Patricia-Anne WinterSun
- Government ..... Open
- Social Policy ..... Open

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Historian ..... Carole Ziskin
- Membership .....Becky Simpson
- Nominating Committee Chair.... Debbe Hartridge
- Publications .....Lorey Keele
- Hospitality ..... Kathie Simas
- Communications Support .....Helen Andrews, Patricia-Anne WinterSun

**FUNDRAISING**

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

**MEDIA**

- Access Humboldt Rep. .... Rollin Richmond
- Publicity and Social Media..... Lilach Assayag
- Website ..... Lilach Assayag
- VOTER Publication..... Leslie Leach
- VOTER Circulation..... Carolyn Otis

**VOTER SERVICE**

- Voter Service Director.....Becky Simpson
- Candidate Forums..... Carol Masterson
- Citizen Education..... Judy Bennett
- Election Service.....Byrd Lochtie

THE

# VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County  
P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

*The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County Diversity Policy 2014-2015*

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.

To:

## November 2015

## *LWVHC Calendar*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**December 1**      State of the Community Luncheon Nominations for Community Contributions Awards are due.

**December 5**      Board Meeting  
1:00 PM              Anne Hartline's House

**December 5**      **LWVHC Holiday Party**  
2:00-4:00 PM      Anne Hartline's House