

President's Message

It's hard to believe that it is already the middle of February and will be March when you receive this newsletter. The League of Women Voters of the United States celebrated 96 years of education and advocacy on February 14. Our League celebrated the day with a new member orientation and mini-training for Voters Service. We welcomed four new members and had a lively discussion about all aspects of the League while we enjoyed delicious treats. **Anne Hartline, Becky Simpson, and Krista Miller** did an excellent job of organizing and presenting a most interesting orientation for our new members! Thank you to them—and to everyone else who came out on a Sunday Valentine's Day.

Three of the new members who attended on February 14 are **Celeste Ruiz, Crystal Sand** and **Jesse Sherman**. Together with **Charmin Bailey** and **Alicia Carter** they make up the Election Committee of the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria. This is a new committee appointed by the Tribal Council to work with the League as we conduct the Tribe's elections. They will be conducting candidate forums, with help from the League, for the candidates running for Tribal Office. They will serve as the liaison between the League and the Tribe. Because they are all now League members, they will be able to be volunteers for all the work parties when we prepare for the elections, and they will be able to help at the election, doing everything except checking signatures and counting votes. We are very pleased to have this excellent relationship with Bear River. We look forward to working with these new League members!

The orientation was a good reminder to all of us about the many opportunities that are available for members to participate, for just a few hours or for a longer project. Join **Kathy Johanson** at the Arcata City Council meeting on March 2 as she accepts the Sunshine Week Proclamation and says a few words about the League. I'm sure she would appreciate

your support! Bring a friend and attend the Community Participation Fair on March 16 where you can find out about ways to participate on various community committees and commissions. Come to the Voter Service and Voter Registration Training on March 17 to learn all about the jobs needed to put on a candidate forum and to register voters. Sign up to help with some of the work for the Bear River Election during March. Attend the State of the Community Luncheon on Friday, April 22. Read more about all of these events throughout this issue.

I hope to see every one of you at one of our exciting and important events!

Byrd Lochtie

Save the Dates!

Community Participation Fair

Wednesday, March 16, 5-7 PM

Voter Service & Voter Registration Training

Thursday, March 17, 5:30 PM

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!

LWVHC Board Briefs

By Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Secretary

In February, your Board

- ⇒ ratified the Executive Committee decision to hire Amanda Windsor to update *A Citizen's Guide to County Government.*,
- ⇒ signed up for Youth Voice in Government ,
- ⇒ approved renewing our bulk mail permit.

Bringing Our Democracy to Light

By Lilach Asaayag

Every March, media outlets, civic groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools, and others entities around the country participate in Sunshine Week, a national initiative that emphasizes the importance of government transparency and access to information by the citizens. Sunshine Week activities include workshops, meetings, and forums that promote a dialogue about the significance of open government in a healthy democracy. It is celebrated around Freedom of Information Day, March 16, which is the birthdate of the fourth U.S. President, James Madison, who played a major part in the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

A principal milestone for openness in the U.S. government was the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in 1966 that gives citizens the right to access information from the federal government. This act protects the citizens' right to request information and also requires government agencies to automatically disclose certain information. In 1996 an amendment to the Act (E-FOIA) stated that all agencies are also required to make some records available electronically.

In California, openness in government is also upheld thanks to the Brown Act of 1953 that requires government meetings to be open and public. This means posting a notice and an agenda, notifying the media, allowing anonymous public input and recording the



meeting. The California Public Records Act, which passed in 1968 allows access to “any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public’s business prepared, owned, used, or retained by any state or local agency.

This year, the Sunshine Week Initiative is celebrating its ten-year anniversary and the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County is proud to host its first Community Participation Fair during Sunshine Week on Wednesday, March 16, Freedom of Information Day. This event will take place at the Wharfinger Building, 5pm-7pm. This free event with music and refreshments aims to encourage civic engagement and community participation, emphasizing volunteer opportunities and positions. Some of the confirmed participants who will be tabling at the event are as follows: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, Humboldt County Office of Education, Grand Jury of Humboldt County, Arcata City Council, Eureka City Council, Open Space and Agriculture Committee, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, Area 1 Developmental Disability Board, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, CASA of Humboldt, Humboldt Mediation, and the list is growing!

Do you want to know more about freedom of information? Visit: www.sunshineweek.org, www.foia.gov, www.data.gov, www.data.ca.gov.

New Member Orientation

By Anne Hartline

Thank you to all the new and seasoned Leaguers who attended our New Member Orientation Meeting on Valentine's Day! We had a great meeting which included an overview about the meaning of membership in the League, the two arms of League (education and advocacy), and about ways for members to get involved.

Our new members had lots of great questions, and it was a pleasure talking about the past as well as our future plans.

Special thanks in particular to **Becky Simpson** for getting the word out, and to **Krista Miller** for making all the arrangements.

Community Participation Fair

By Lilach Assayag

Wednesday, March 16, 2016, from 5 -7 PM at the Wharfinger Building, 1 Marina Way, Eureka

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County is pleased to invite you to its very first annual Community Participation Fair. The aim of this FREE, exciting, community-building event is to bring the citizens of Humboldt County together with public officials and representatives from boards and commissions to facilitate communication and to illuminate volunteer possibilities.

LWVHC Voter Service/Voter Registration Training!

The League of Women Voters is well known for our work registering voters, educating new and seasoned voters about important election issues, and for helping the community learn about local candidates and their views. This year our work in both Voter Service and voter registration is going to be especially important and active, and we know many of you want to be more involved in this very rewarding work. Please join us at the League office on March 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 for a light dinner and a lively training on all things related to voting and Voter Service. This is the League at our very best, and we need everyone to be trained and ready for action. We need you all! Don't miss out on the FUN!

Another Volunteer Opportunity

Help put together the second mailing for the members of the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria. Come to 5915 Elk River Road in Eureka on March 8 at 1 pm to join a group of hard-working volunteers as they stuff envelopes and record all their work. And we still need a couple of people on the day of the election at the Tish Non Community Center on the Bear River Rancheria in Loleta on March 26 between 7:30 am and 5 pm. Contact Byrd at byrdloch@aol.com or call 442-7187. We welcome anyone who is willing to volunteer. Thanks!

News You Can Use

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

Last year, our League contacted the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District because one of our observers was concerned about the availability of information before their regular board meetings. We had several conversations with their staff, and Amanda Windsor consulted with the staff about their website. We have just received word from Sherrie Sobol, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary, that their website www.hbmwd.com is newly improved and available to the public. You will see that League member **Barbara Hecathorn** is an elected member of the Board of Directors. Check out the website to get a great deal of information if you are interested!

LWV of Humboldt County

FREE

Community Participation Fair

Discover opportunities to volunteer with public agencies and enjoy music and refreshments!

Wednesday, March 16, 5PM - 7PM
Wharfinger Building, 1 Marina Way, Eureka

Remembering Kathryn Corbett

By Judy Bennett

This January saw the loss of one of our LWVHC board members. **Kathryn Corbett** was a memorable person who would have been 100 years old this August. She was spirited, vigorous, and in her own way, a very commanding person. When Kathryn had an idea, she made certain it was acted upon. I was speaking with an academic colleague of Kathryn's who said, "When Kathryn wanted something done, she called and told you to do it."

Kathryn was one of the first LWVC board members; she served on the publicity committee. In her years as a League member, she had many great ideas. Our published history, *-Humboldt County League of Women Voters: 50 Years of a Good Idea* was one of them. She personally funded the original effort of making us put to paper the first 50 years of LWVHC. She was also responsible for the creation of our LWVHC Education Fund at Humboldt Area Foundation. She spearheaded our bell ringing event that amassed the seed money. She was an active community member as well. According to her obituary in the *Times Standard* on January 24, she developed the Sociology department at Humboldt State University as well as founding Women's Studies and Social Work degrees, and we can thank Kathryn for women's bathrooms in the Federal Court House at 5th and H Streets.

She was an unparalleled fundraiser for women's athletics and believed in being fit. She walked everywhere. She could scale the steps at HSU far faster than women much younger than she. Kathryn was involved with the creation of the Jazz Festival as a source of funding for senior activities, with the Friends of the Library, and for the hiring of enough female administrators and professors at HSU so female graduates could belong to the American Association of University Women. She was instrumental in the many accomplishments of the Union Labor Health Foundation and its giving of philanthropic awards.

When we started the State of the Community Luncheon, Kathryn was quite vocal about who should be the recipient. She maintained that the award should never be given to someone just doing a good job in a paid position. The committee did not always agree, but generally Kathryn ruled. In 2004, LWVHC honored Kathryn as the recipient at the State of the Community Luncheon. She was an incredible woman who advanced women's rights, and I was delighted to have been the subject of one of her writings "Dentist's Wives I Have Known."

Kathryn Corbett was often intimidating and demanding, but always kind and thoughtful, and I am honored to have known her.

25th State of the Community Luncheon

By Debb Hartridge

The 25th State of the Community Luncheon will be April 22, 2016 at the Adorni Center in Eureka.

This year, we'll honor two organizations, **Hospice of Humboldt** and the **Redwood Empire Quilters Guild**. Hospice has provided "heartfelt end of life care" and grief support services for community members for over 30 years. Every year, the Redwood Empire Quilters Guild provides lovingly produced hand-made quilts that bring warmth and comfort to diverse recipients, including veterans, premature babies, and children in need.

We will also honor **Judith Stoffer**, long time member of the League. Judith is well known in our community as someone who gets things done. Her dedication and know-how have benefited many local organizations including Hospice, Evergreen Lodge at St. Joseph Hospital, the Humboldt County Library Foundation, and more.



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 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

Who's Who on 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 Judy Bennett
 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

 **Find Us on Facebook!**

LWV of HUMBOLDT COUNTY

THE VOTER

P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502
Change Service Requested

To:

Get Involved!

We all have 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., March 1 5:30 P.M.	Board Meeting League Office
March 13-19	Sunshine Week Nationwide
Wed., March 16 5-7 P.M.	Community Participation Fair Wharfinger Building
Thur., March 17 5:30 P.M.	Voter Service & Voter Registration Training League Office
Fri., April 22	25th State of the Community Luncheon
Thur., May 19	Annual Membership Meeting Time & Place TBA
