

President's Message

Dear League Members,

It is a pleasure to be writing this for you as your new President of our local League. I hope your summer has gone well despite federal politics, and you have some plans for the remaining few weeks.

On August 13 the Board had a planning meeting to identify approaches for the coming year and to find members who are willing to help us deliver these ideas to our membership and community. We began our meeting by approving the appointment of four members to our board. It is a pleasure to know that **Byrd Lochtie** and **Nancy Kay**, former Presidents, are willing to continue serving us as Board members. Ms. Kay was elected to the Board. In addition we agreed to the appointment of **Julie Kelly**, **Mary Lou Lowry**, and **Liz Smith** as new members of our Board.

At the LWVUS Convention this year, a change to the membership criteria for all Leagues was adopted. Individuals can become members at age 16. The former criterion was 18 years of age. We will accordingly change the membership requirements for our local League. Vice President **Celeste Ruiz**, Board member **Kathy Johanson**, and I attended the Convention this year and our summaries and perspectives are elsewhere in this edition.

We adopted the structure our Board will follow for the 2016 - 2017 year, and the individuals listed are leading these areas. We hope that you will assist these Board members during the coming year. Please contact the person(s) listed so that they can include you in further conversations.

Administration

President (Rollin Richmond)
Vice-President (Celeste Ruiz)
Secretary (Patricia-Anne WinterSun)
Treasurer (Deborah Downs)
Program Chairs (Anne Hartline and Judy Bennett)
Communication Chairs (Celeste Ruiz, Kathy Johanson, Rollin Richmond)
VOTER Editor (Leslie Leach)
Membership Chair (Becky Simpson)
Governance Chair (Byrd Lochtie)

Portfolio Directors

Social Policy – Mary Lou Lowry
Natural Resources-Patricia-Anne WinterSun
Government – Liz Smith

Voter Service

Candidate Forums – Carol Masterson
Voter Registration and Fairs – Celeste Ruiz, Becky Simpson, and Anne Hartline
Community Education – Nancy Kay
Community Election Service – Byrd Lochtie
Observers – Not named

Communication

Publicity – Not named
Website –Kathy Johanson
Access Humboldt – Rollin Richmond
Social Media – Celeste Ruiz and Kathy Johanson

I look forward to working with my Board colleagues and all members for the coming year and thank you for supporting the League for the benefit of our community and our country.

Rollin Richmond
President

Mark Your Calendars for the LWVHC Annual Membership Brunch

by Anne Hartline

Our first big event of the LWVHC 2016 – 2017 year is coming up, and it's going to be terrific!

What: LWVHC Annual Membership Brunch
Topic: Higher Education Finances and Implications for Humboldt County

Speakers: Dr. Keith Snow-Flamer, College of the Redwoods Interim President, and Joyce Lopes, Vice-President, Administration and Finance, Humboldt State University

When: Saturday, September 24, 2016, 9:45 AM - noon

9:45: Registration

10:00: Brunch is served!

10:30 – 11:30: Keynote speaker presentations and member questions

11:30: LWVHC Update and Opportunities

Where: Kate Buchanan Room, Humboldt State University

Parking is free at HSU on Saturdays except at meters.

Join us for brunch at Humboldt State to meet your 2016/2017 LWVHC board, learn about plans for the upcoming League year, and receive updates on funding and financing issues for higher education from two local experts. Since the League of Women Voters of California has just completed a study on Public Higher Education, the presentations of our keynote speakers; Dr. Keith Snow-Flamer, College of the Redwoods Interim President, and Joyce Lopes, Vice-President, Administration and Finance, Humboldt State University will be of great interest.

The cost for the delicious brunch, catered by HSU Dining Services, is

\$10/member if reserved by September 18

\$5/ guest of a member (please limit to 1 per member) if reserved by September 18

\$15/member or guest at the door with no reservation

To make a reservation, or if you have questions, contact Anne Hartline at annehartline10@gmail.com (email is preferred) or leave a voice message at (707) 822-1161. If brunch is not of interest to you, feel free to join us at 10:30 to hear our expert presentations and learn about the upcoming League year.

Save the Date for the Forum on Mental Illness and the Intersection of the Criminal Justice System by Mary Lou Lowry

Learn what is happening in the area of mental health as the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County joins with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Humboldt County to present a series of forums on the intersection of mental illness and the criminal justice system.

The first forum will be Wednesday, November 2 from 7-9 pm at the United Congregational Christian Church in Eureka at 900 Hodgson (the intersection of Hodgson and J Street). The panel will feature Maggie Fleming, District Attorney; Bill Damiano, Probation; Kevin Robinson, Public Defender; Andy Mills, Eureka Police Department; and Donna Wheeler, Acting Director of Mental Health.

The topic of mental illness and the criminal justice system is an important one. Approximately 20% of

people in jails have a mental illness. Many people in jails and prisons with a mental illness do not have access to treatment (according to Treatment Advocacy Center). According to a Pew McArthur study, \$1.00 spent in the community saves \$7.00 in prison. Attend the forum and learn more about how this issue affects us locally.

Save the Date!

The Community Participation Fair

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County will sponsor the Second Annual Community Participation Fair on Freedom of Information Day, Thursday, March 16 5:30-7pm at the Arcata Community Center, 321 Dr. Martin Luther King Parkway, Arcata.

All Elections Matter

by Carol Masterson

It's a good thing that a lot of Humboldt people like to remain here during the summer so we have both the numbers of volunteers to staff our Voter Service activities and the numbers of the public who use them. Our crew who made a June journey to Hoopa for a Tribal Council candidate forum on KIDE-FM included **Bev Post, Nancy Kay, and Patricia-Anne and George WinterSun**. And on Independence Day, there were those **WinterSuns** again, setting up and taking down the Eureka booth where **Judy Geppert, Fran Taplin, and Bev and Richard Strubinger** helped voters register; in Arcata, **Rollin Richmond, Becky Simpson, and Debbe Hartridge** took on the booth construction duty. **Lorraine Davis, Deborah Downs, and Rollin** did the registering there. Massive thanks, all you lovely people!

And now, we present.....a moderately entertaining presidential election contest that threatens to eclipse our arguably far more important local races for city councils, Congress, and Assembly, not to forget eighteen local ballot measures as well as seventeen state ones! A lot of homework will be necessary to participate fully on November 8, and our Voter Service teams are lining up to help eager voters have a satisfying experience. You can help! Call 707-768- 3118 or email buffy7@suddenlink.net to help set up/take down/register voters at the North Country Fair on September 17 and 18 and to help with candidate forums in October on KEET-TV. (Others will be asking for your help in other Voter Service activities in this issue of the VOTER.)

And remember, if you're passionate about a candidate or an issue, please throw yourself into supporting/opposing her/him/it. Put up a yard sign, contribute time and money, persuade your friends and neighbors. That's what this great experiment is all about, participation in government. Just don't volunteer to work at a forum or pros and cons about your candidate/issue. But if you want to do some Voter Service and help the League carry out its mission, let us know. Thanks.

Help Increase the League Voice Via Social Media!

by Kathy Johanson

As League Members, you know that we work to encourage civic participation and inform the public through education and advocacy. One of the ways we communicate with the public is through social media. Did you know that you have a way to help the League in its efforts by simply liking our Facebook page?

Whether or not you are an active Facebook user, go to the LWVHC page and "Like" it. Then, invite your friends to "Like" the page by sending them an invite. That action is completed on the right hand side of the LWVHC Facebook page. Your list of Facebook friends will pop up and you can select everyone in Humboldt County and even those who aren't who may be interested in League activities.

This simple action completed by LWVHC board members in the last two weeks has doubled our audience, providing an avenue for reminders of League events, forums, voter registration deadlines and more!

Thank you for taking action on behalf of the League. If you have any comments or recommendations regarding social media, please let me know.

 ***Like Us on Facebook!***

Speakers Bureau

Several requests for speakers regarding the League have come in, as well as invitations to speak to high school seniors about voting, coupled with voter registration drives at the high schools.

The League is developing a speakers bureau. If you are interested in participating, please contact Nancy Kay, Community Education Chair, at 442-2729 or n-kay@nancykaycpa.com.

News from the League of Women Voters US Convention

by Rollin Richmond, President

As a retired academic, I have attended many conventions over the years, but this LWVUS Convention in Washington, D.C. was a new adventure for me. The most surprising aspect for me was the schedule. I cannot remember working so hard at any of my former conventions. The days started about 7:15AM and continued until 9:30 PM. They did give us time for lunch and dinner if it wasn't part of the schedule.

I was also impressed by the numbers of attendees. There were more than 750 people in attendance including a fair number of other men. If you are interested in the details and all the results of the convention, go to this website:

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/council-and-convention/convention-2016>

Wylecia Wiggs Harris, who is the CEO of the LWVUS, gave an excellent talk. The following points impressed me:

- The LWV needs to take new paths to engage millennials.
- The League needs to represent the diversity of our population. Some of the League's funders say that it is not as relevant as it once was. In the future the mission should be: impact, relevance, visibility
- The LWV needs to be data driven.
- Dialogue should give way to action.



Wylecia Wiggs Harris

Here are some of the resolutions that were supported by the voting delegates at the convention:

- Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and the LWVUS.
- Funding for gun violence research at the Centers for Disease Control should be restored.
- The League will support statehood for the people of the District of Columbia.
- The LWVUS should continue working for full implementation of the EPA Clean Power Act.
- The League supports public financing of elections, either voluntary or mandatory, in which candidates must abide by reasonable spending limits.
- The League supports redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.
- The League supports the proposal that every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services that are integrated with and achieve parity with physical health care.

Finally, the convention gave me the opportunity to get to know better two of our colleagues, **Celeste Ruiz** and **Kathy Johanson**. I learned so much and the convention further supported my belief that the League is an important way to make democracy work for our country and perhaps others. Thanks for providing the resources for the three of us to attend.

More News from the League of Women Voters US Convention

by Kathy Johanson

The convention is where LWVUS business gets done. With much discussion! Governance was in full force during our last convention in June 2016. Three members of our local League traveled together to learn and participate in the biennial event. We witnessed and absorbed so much information it seems hard to process and relate it all. My focus in this message is governance.

The LWVUS Convention theme was Making Democracy Work! Delegates approved a motion making that campaign our national program for 2016-2018. Its three key goals are **Grow the Vote**, **Protect the Vote**, and **Empower Voters**. The League seeks to register more voters, work against voter suppression, and provide information to voters.

Locally, we are engaged in these areas with our efforts in Voter Registration, Community Education, and through Voter's Edge and Candidate Forums.

One of the amendments to LWVUS By-Laws was to lower the age limit to become a member. The first amendment proposing a change to the age requirement recommended no age limit at all. This proposal garnered numerous pro and con voices, lengthening the time it took to decide. Finally, someone called the question, and we began voting simply to end discussion and vote on the proposal which was defeated. A new proposal was entered, and because it was in the scope of the original proposal, it was accepted.

Normally, proposals must be submitted prior to the convention by three months in order to allow time for research. The LWVUS will then make a recommendation to the convention and information is provided to delegates in their workbooks. The revised proposal took additional discussion and was adopted. Voting members are now **PERSONS of at least 16 years of age and above**.

Prior to this vote, the delegates also considered revising the language in the By-Laws whereby members once referred to as **CITIZENS** are now referred to as **PERSONS**. This amendment also garnered much discussion and passed. We were amazed by the power of our voices and the interesting dialogue we heard!

Two other items created great debate, the budget and redistricting. The LWVUS board recommended changes to how the budget is created. This caused many questions and a separate discussion session was held. The budget ultimately passed.

Delegates considered two concurrences with state Leagues, one on behavioral health and the second on redistricting. Several Leagues had issues with the wording of the redistricting position; however, ten states do not have a position at all. The adopted position allowed these state and local Leagues to take action.

Delegates also voted to retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. All of these motions passed. Other action taken by the delegates included approving several resolutions, all of which were easily adopted.

Learn more from the convention report at <http://www.lwvny.org/announcements/2016/2016-LWVUS-Convention-Report-Full.pdf>

LWVHC Board Briefs

by Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Secretary

In August, your Board

approved four appointments to the board:

Julie Kelly,
Byrd Lochtie,
Mary Lou Lowry,
Elizabeth Smith.

adopted a board structure for the year,

adopted a tentative calendar for the year.



Meet LWVHC Board Members: Nancy Kay and Mary Lou Lowry

My name is **Nancy Kay**. I have served on the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters for several years, and have held positions of President and Treasurer.

I have worked as a forensic economist for 33 years and am a Certified Public Accountant. I received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Economics, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration Finance from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

I joined the League of Women Voters when I moved to Humboldt County in 1998. I have focused my efforts on Community Education. I am also a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and an active member and Treasurer of the Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka. I served for several years on the KEET Board of Directors and am currently serving on the Board of the Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods.

I'm a mother of three and grandmother of five. I spend a lot of time visiting my family in Sonoma County and in the Washington, DC area. My interests are my family, books, movies, plays, music, cooking, bridge, public policy, and community service.

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 who are sixteen years old or older.

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 to join.

My name is **Mary Lou Lowry**, and I have recently been appointed to the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County Board.

I was born in Buffalo, New York and raised in Dallas, Texas. I graduated from a small women's college in Virginia, Hollins College, and then I attended the University of Texas Law School.

After graduation, I worked for the FBI, later a law firm, and finally, I was an executive director of a non-profit.

I recently moved to Arcata to be closer to my children. Prior to moving here, I lived in a suburb of Chicago for 38 years. I joined the League of Women Voters when I began working for the FBI, so I have been a member for over 40 years. During that time, I have learned so much from the League of Women Voters, and now, I am excited to be involved with the local League.



Remembering Phyllis Helligas

by Byrd Lochtie

In August, we sadly said goodbye to **Phyllis Brant Helligas**, one of our charter members, who at 92 was active in the League until her last few months. Phyllis joined the League in 1956, serving on the first board as the bulletin (VOTER) chair. She was the President from 1959 to 1962, when she began a TV program called “Coffee Break with the League” where Leaguers discussed Pros and Cons of ballot measures, and later discussed League studies and positions. This popular program was discontinued due to time constraints and the need for more volunteers. Over the years, continuing into 2016, Phyllis has been a willing—even eager—volunteer, especially to work on a candidate forum or help with the election service for the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria. When she stopped driving, she still volunteered as long as she could get a ride—and many people were eager to pick her up!

The League was just one of Phyllis’s many interests and activities, which included the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Planned Parenthood, the Humboldt County Grand Jury, Humboldt Mediation, the Hospice Thrift Shop, and Arcata House. She belonged to many groups centered around her passions, such as a walking group, the “family dinner” group, a women’s group, a bridge group, the New Yorker Discussion group and her swimming buddies.

Her career included teaching, running a Bed and Breakfast with her second husband in their converted potato-chip factory, and designing, remodeling, and building houses. She credits her time as the League President with her decision to leave teaching and go into government-type work; she was inspired to continue her education for a degree in Political Science and then to obtain a Master’s degree in Public Administration. You can see how her League experience had a major effect on her life.

Phyllis had two sons, two step-sons, two grandchildren, and three step-grandchildren. She loved swimming, canoeing, biking, hiking, cooking, sewing, travel, and collecting treasures wherever she went. At the Celebration of her Life, I heard so many positive adjectives applied to her: generous, kind, loving, competent, happy, creative, fun, hard-working, ingenious, a true friend—and always laughing. We will miss your passion and your beautiful smile, Phyllis.

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 2016-2017

ADMINISTRATION

President Rollin Richmond
 Vice President Celeste Ruiz
 Past President Kathy Johanson
 Secretary Patricia-Anne WinterSun
 Treasurer Deborah Downs
 Director Judy Bennett
 Director Anne Hartline
 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

PORTFOLIO DIRECTORS

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

Governance Chair Byrd Lochtie
 Historian Carole Ziskin
 Membership Chair Becky Simpson
 Nominating Committee Chair ... Debbe Hartridge
 Publications Lorey Keele
 Communications Support Kathy Johanson and
 Patricia-Anne WinterSun

FUNDRAISING

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

COMMUNICATION

Access Humboldt Rep. Rollin Richmond
 Publicity Not Named
 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
 Community Education Nancy Kay
 Community Election Service Byrd Lochtie

 **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., September 6 5:30 PM	Board Meeting League Office
Sat. and Sun. Sept. 17 and 18	North Country Fair LWVHC Voter Registration Table
Sat., September 24 9:45-Noon	LWVHC Membership Brunch Kate Buchanan Room Humboldt State University
Tue., October 4 5:30 PM	Board Meeting League Office
Sun, October 16 Noon-4 PM	LatinoNet Festejando (Health Fair) LWVHC Voter Registration Table
Thurs., Oct. 20 5:30 PM	LWVHC Membership Meeting Place: TBA
Mon., Oct. 24	Last day to register to vote in the November 8 election
