



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 48 No. 8

September 2006

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Presidents' Message

Byrd: The feedback I heard was that people liked our dialogue from last month, so shall we try it again?

Anne: If Leaguers like it, that works for me. Our League has been so very active lately that two heads are better than one for remembering all the important happenings!

The board retreat in July went really well, and I personally want to thank **Judy Bennett** for her hospitality (anything that Judy touches is always classy, don't you think?) Also, I want to mention how impressed I was with our new board—fun, smart, hardworking and collaborative. Our new secretary, **Sharolyn Hutton**, is amazing! Aren't we lucky?

Byrd: We are! Our Board this year is so eclectic—committed, experienced board members like **Carol Masterson**, returning board members **Kay Escarda** and **Judy Bennett**, and the fresh new ideas of newer Board members like **Lupe Luvio-Marlett**, **Jesse Tunnell**, **Amanda Windsor**, **Pat Charley**, and on and on.

Anne: I know you are as delighted as I am to welcome our newest board member: **Melanie Johnson**. (Her bio is on page 2.) She'll be working with **Carol Masterson** in Voters Service, specializing in Citizen Education. Do you think Carol is as pleased to have another board member to help her as she was with arriving in Arcata bright and early on July the Fourth?

Byrd: Well, knowing how Carol, a night owl, loves to sleep in, I think she may be even more pleased!

Happy Anniversary LWVHC!



1956-2006

Don't Wait Around for the 75th...

Join us for the

50th Anniversary Membership

Brunch

Bring a Guest!

Saturday, September 23, 2006

10:30 – 12:30

Eureka Woman's Club

1531 J Street, Eureka, CA

Catered by Elizabeth Adams of Hurricane Kate's

In honor of our 50th Anniversary, the cost of the annual Membership Brunch is only **50 cents** but ONLY if you reserve by Monday, September 18th.

RSVP today!

Call our Membership Chair, Kay Escarda at 442-7495

Anne: I agree! And let's not forget the non-Board members who step in and make things happen on an event-by-event basis—**Lorey Keele** and **Carolyn Otis** are great examples—but there are lots of others. It's hard sometimes to get all the thanks in!

Byrd: One of many great discussions during our retreat in July was about community relations, and how it can encompass so much more than public relations or publicity. Our decision to widen our approach, so that our role in the community is even more visible, is really going to make things interesting.

Anne: Our reception at the Clarke Museum on August 19 was a good example of that. We hosted community members as well as our own membership.

Byrd: I know you are responsible for making that happen, Anne. Thank you so much for all your work.

Anne: You know me—I pretty much passed the buck on to my intrepid committee—so I want to pass on the thanks too. Thanks also to

Continued on page 2

Our Mission Statement...

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

MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!

Membership News

Have We Got a Deal for You!

You've probably already heard that the cost of the annual Membership Brunch is only 50 cents for members and guests who reserve their places by Monday, Sept. 18.

There's more! The Board thinks it's so important to bring in new members, and new ideas, for the League, that they've decided that **anyone who joins the League for the first time on the day of the brunch may join at 50% off the regular membership fee of \$50.**

Start today to confirm your guests, and help us build our membership! Minor adjustments may be made to your reservation after September 18, but we need to provide a count for the caterer, and last minute additions will be difficult. Those who arrive with no reservation will have to pay the full \$13 cost of the meal, and then only if the event is not already sold out.

The object of a membership event is to get new and prospective members excited about the League, as well as to preview the coming year for current members.

Our featured speakers, **Anne Hartline**, League Co-President, and **Ron Perry**, Eureka High teacher *par excellence*, will present highlights of the first fifty years of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County. This should be an excellent introduction for a prospective member.

Brunch begins at 10:30 at the Eureka Women's Club, but you may come just for the program at 11:30, and coffee or tea will be provided free of charge. Make your reservations by calling 442-7495.

-Kay Escarda, Membership Chair

Presidents' Message Continued...

Pam Service, and the other wonderful people at the Clarke Historical Museum. (*More about this on page 4.*)

Now shouldn't we talk about our first major event of the year? That's our Membership Brunch on Saturday, September 23 where members—and potential members—can meet and find out what our plans are for the year.

Byrd: Yes, indeed. We really want to encourage our members to bring potential new members to the brunch to find out what the League is all about.

Anne: We expect this event to have a sellout crowd so Leaguers should RSVP SOON! We hope Leaguers will each bring at least one guest who will want to join that day.

Now should we mention the Arcata Fire Protection District Election, since our League counted the votes for them?

Byrd: Well, there is an article on page 3 all about the election, but I do want to thank the many Leaguers, most of whom were NOT board members, who volunteered for this project.

Anne: Didn't I hear that the Fire District felt that having us involved gave them credibility in the community?

Meet New Board Member

Melanie Johnson

Mine is a familiar story. I was born and raised in Southern California, married, and moved to Berkeley. After university, the Free Speech Movement, the Viet Nam War and the birth of our son, we moved to Arcata and have lived in Humboldt County for more than 30 years.

I recently retired from HSU where I was Operations Analyst for the College of Natural Resources and Sciences. Ron and I travel often, take nature walks locally, and putter in the yard. After a 35-year career "at the office", I like to be out and about! I enjoy a flexible schedule with a variety of volunteer jobs.

Barbara Kelly invited me to a LWV brunch several years ago. Since then, I have participated in a couple of League position studies and other short term projects. I look forward to learning more about the League, and to working with the dynamite Board, its presidential duo and Voters Service.

Welcome Melanie!

Speaking of Dues...

**League Dues were due on July 1.
If you haven't sent in your dues yet,
please do so today!**

Byrd: Yes, the district seemed to think so, and the benefit assessment was approved by an overwhelming majority. This is another good example of LWVHC emphasizing community relations.

Anne: Byrd, YOU are to be thanked for making this new role for the League such an outstanding success! It even added a nice little chunk of cash to our budget, didn't it?

Byrd: (blushing) Yes, it sure did. Before we end this, should we mention that we have an election in November?

Anne: How could we forget? We know that Carol and her crew will be very busy in September and October. Leaguers, please read her article on page 3, and then call to let her know what YOU can do to help.

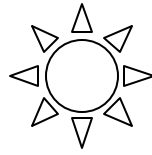
Byrd: We hope to see many members volunteering to help with forums and debates, and of course we hope to see all of you at the membership brunch on September 23.

-Anne and Byrd, Co-Presidents

**Welcome
New Member!**
 Nancy Nieboer

LWVHC Candidate Debates on KEET TV

For the November 7, 2006 Election
Monday, Oct. 2, 7-8 P.M.Supervisor, 4th District
Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7-9 P.M.Eureka City Council
Monday, Oct. 9, 7-8 P.M.State Assembly
Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7-9 P.M.Arcata City Council
Monday, Oct. 16, 7-8 P.M.State Senate
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7-8:30 P.M. Eureka Mayor



We'll continue on Labor Day, **September 4**, at the Festival on the Bay in Halvorson Park, Eureka at 8:30 A.M., when at least **three persons** are needed to set up and decorate our booth. The decorating is always fun because the booth design is always different, reflecting the creativity of each team.

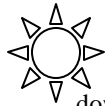
We repeat the process fewer than two weeks later, on **September 16 and 17** on the Arcata Plaza at the North Country Fair. The Apple Harvest Festival in Fortuna on Saturday, **October 7** will be our last outdoor event for the season, but candidate forums for the November 7 election will have begun by that time, and we all can come indoors and answer phones and sort questions.

These two upcoming months are the most labor intensive for Voters Service, but many hands make light work. Come give the League your many hands.

E-mail buffy7@cox.net or call 768-3118.

-Carol Masterson, Voters Service Director

Fall into Voters Service!



Feel that hint of crispness in the air? Come to the creeping realization that the equator is about to move north of the direct line of the sun and it's all downhill 'til the winter solstice? Want something more substantive than Hallowe'en to occupy your time? The LWVHC offers you... **VOTERS SERVICE!!!!**

This is our golden anniversary year, and we are making a big celebration wherever we go, spreading the word about the League's fifty years of service to Humboldt County voters, and encouraging them to become more informed and active.

We began on the Fourth of July, with booths in Eureka and Arcata, where a total of 41 voters registered. On August 16 and 17, we were invited to be present at freshman and transfer-student assemblies at HSU, where **Millie Brucker, Debby Storre, Milt Boyd, Barbara Kelly, Ben Tankersley, and Carole Ziskin** helped 34 more. Thanks, all of you, and wasn't it fun being surrounded by all that young energy?

Smartvoter.org Updates



Paula Blackshear will be the Humboldt County Coordinator for **smartvoter.org**, the League's comprehensive source for election information. She may be calling a few people for help in phoning candidates. We hope you'll say yes.

Even if your decisions have been made, give **smartvoter.org** a look; you may be surprised!

Your League At Work - The AFPD Benefit Assessment Election

I'm sure most of you have heard that our League signed a contract with the Arcata Fire Protection District to count the votes for the district's Benefit Assessment Election. And you surely know that the assessment was approved by a large majority.

This was an ambitious project for the League to assume, and I am very pleased with the many League members who made it work. With help from **Sally Lindke** from the District, **Joe Mellet** from the county Auditor's Office and **Erna Drechsler** from HROP, we were able to put all the names and parcel numbers on our computers, and arrange for appropriate rooms for our work.



Because each parcel on the assessor's rolls would be charged according to the value and use of the parcel property, this was NOT a secret ballot. Each vote had to be matched to the parcel number so that it could be weighted according to the assessment. It was obvious that this was a concern of many of the voters. We read many voter comments expressing a whole range of opinions!

For the League, the task that took the most time and energy was opening and sorting more than 5800 mailed-in ballots. We sorted the ballots in numerical order according to the parcel numbers, and separated them by yes or no votes. Then it

was quite easy for a reader to tell the computer operator where to enter the vote. Our program automatically calculated the weighting of the vote for the final tally.

Paula Blackshear and **Sharolyn Hutton** set up the lists and programs in the HROP computers. They made the final tallies, and worked many hours to be sure everything balanced at the end. In total, we had nineteen—yes, NINETEEN!—wonderful Leaguers who volunteered over the three-day period, to make this a great success.

Indeed, it was a spectacular success, as we performed a great community service, and we earned more than \$2400 for our treasury! And the evaluations indicated that everyone had a great time and would be willing to do this again sometime.

My very great thanks to **Pam Olson, Sharolyn Hutton, David Hutton, Bev Post, Carole Ziskin, Willa Mauro, Lorey Keele, Debby Storre, Joy Porsley, Dottie Riffenburg, Carol Masterson, Bev Bradshaw, Janis Schleunes, Paula Blackshear, Millie Brucker, Helen Andrews, Kay Escarda, and Lenny Escarda.** (If I have left out anyone, that means you didn't sign in on my sheet! I'm sorry if I missed you!) We couldn't have done this without all of you!

-Byrd Lochtie, Election Coordinator

A Reception on 19th for the 19th Amendment

On Saturday, August 19, fifty Leaguers met to see the wonderful LWVHC 50th Anniversary display, as well as to celebrate the League's 50th Anniversary, and the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the amendment which gave American women the right to vote.

The roundness of the numbers was fun (50 for the 50th, the 19th as a celebration of the 19th) and it was a great party!

Carolyn Otis was the 50th Leaguer to cross the threshold, and everyone enjoyed cake, punch, appetizers, a speech or two, and some great company.

It was wonderful to see many long-time Leaguers, some newer Leaguers and some interested non-members, all sharing memories and enjoying each other's company. We hope some of the non-Leaguers will soon join our ranks!

Many thanks to **Carol Johnson, Lorey Keele** and **Kay Escarda** for putting everything together with such class. Special thanks also to **Pam Service**, Director/Curator of the Clarke Historical Museum, who not only let us use her lovely venue for our party, but was a wonderful help with the display.

See you at the next 50th Anniversary event!

-Anne Hartline, 50th Anniversary Chair



Do You Ever Wonder How We Do It?

Do you want to learn more about how the League functions, and who makes things happen? Are you curious about how we organize our live and televised forums? Do you wonder how we perform studies and take action?

Plan to attend a 'get acquainted' get-together Saturday, October 14. We'll get your Saturday morning off to a good start, and send you on your way informed about the League.

You'll get comfortable with some of our League lingo, which we understand can sometimes be confusing. Don't be shy if you've been a member for awhile. All are welcome!

Watch for the time and place in the October VOTER. It's not another League secret though; it's just not yet confirmed. Hope to see you there!

-Kay Escarda, Membership Chair

Board Not Quite So Briefs...

On July 15, your Board held their annual, all-day retreat during which the following was accomplished:

Election of Executive Committee: **Hutton, Lovio-Marlett, Daly**, and **Charley** were elected members of the Executive Committee.

Board Calendar: 2006/2007 regular Board meetings will be the **first Thursday of each month at 6 P.M.** at the **LWVHC Office**. There is **no regular board meeting in August**.

Review of Job Descriptions/Titles/Appointments:

The job descriptions of Communications Director, Program Director, and Administrative Director were dropped.

Changes to job descriptions and titles for Voters Service Chair, Program Chair, and Study Chair will be acted on at the September 7 board meeting.

Lois Busey was appointed to the board for a one-year term, and will serve as Financial Director.

Escarda and **Lovio-Marlett** are the board members on the nominating committee, which includes **Nancy Kay, Chair, Lorey Keele**, and **Janis Schleunes**.

Melanie Johnson was appointed to the board for a one-year term, and will work with Voters Service.

Greta Turney will chair the Chesbro Scholarship.

The Board voted to publish the VOTER electronically, and send a hard copy to those requesting it.

Review existing policies and by-laws: Committee of **Busey** and **Daly** will review the by-laws.

The Diversity Policy and the Non-partisan Policy continue as previously approved, with the non-partisan policy amended to coincide with the job descriptions approved July 15, 2006. Updated remaining Board policies will be presented at the September regular board meeting.

State studies/Action/Issues for Emphasis: LWVC requested support for **Universal Health Care**. LWVHC Board agreed to support information about, and publicizing of, Universal Health Care in conjunction with State and National emphasis on October 13. LWVHC is being asked to participate in a publicity campaign in which Universal Health Care is publicized every day of the year. Arcata's date to do so is September 12, and Eureka's is November 25, 2006.

General meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursdays of each month, with the exceptions of September, December, April and May.

-Sharolyn Hutton, Secretary

Thank You So Much!

We're always grateful to those League members who renew AND include a donation as well. The following members have made donations to our:

- Humboldt Area Foundation Education Fund,
- HAF Scholarship/Membership Fund, or
- LWVHC Operations Fund

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Brenda Dennis | Lisa Naef - in memory of |
| Rosemarie Falor-Luis | Georgia Vasilakis-Renner |
| Jackie Foote | Marilyn Tucker |
| Peg Gardner | Sally Upatisringa - in memory of |
| Lisa Naef | Thelma Ingebriksen |

League Poll Workers Donate Earnings to LWVHC Treasury

Eight League members worked long hours at the polls during the June 6 Primary Election. Each has donated her/his salary to the League. LWVHC sincerely thanks **Judy Bennett, Kay Escarda, Lenny Escarda, Nancy Frost, Byrd Lochtie, Carolyn Otis, Rudy Ramp,** and **Debby Storre** for their contributions.

The Humboldt County Elections Division appreciates League support at election time. And our members do not only help the Elections Division as poll workers. Several Leaguers were part of a committee which gave input for revisions to the elections handbook.

Poll workers are always needed! Please call the Elections Office at 445-7481 and ask them how you can serve. The next election will be November 7. The day is long, from 6:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M., and the rewards are many.

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 part of your voice for citizens and a force for change. I am enclosing for my annual membership:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Individual membership	<input type="checkbox"/> I cannot join at this time, but please accept my donation of _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Household membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Please send me more information
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 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 or Scholarship Fund, through the Humboldt Area Foundation are tax-deductible. For more information call 444-9252.

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

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 Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 3219
 Eureka, CA 95502
 (707) 444-9252 www.lwvhc.org

Who's Who in Your League 2006-2007

Your League Board

- Co-President** Anne Hartline
- Co-President** Byrd Lochtie
- Past President** Mona Daly
- Vice-President** Lupe Lovio-Marlett
- Secretary** Sharolyn Hutton
- Treasurer** Judy Bennett
- Member** Lois Busey
- Member** Patricia Charley
- Member** Kay Escarda
- Member** Melanie Johnson
- Member** Carol Masterson
- Member** Jan Mathews
- Member** Jesse Tunnell
- Member** Amanda Windsor

- 50th Anniversary Comm. Chair** .. Anne Hartline
- Action Chair** Jan Mathews
- Calling Committee Chair** Patricia Charley
- Candidate & Issues Forums** Carol Masterson
- Citizen Education** Melanie Johnson
- Community Relations** Lois Busey
- Financial Development Director** Lois Busey
- Government** Patricia Charley
- Historian** Judy Bennett
- Hospitality Chair** Sarah Turner
- LWVHC Ed-Fund** Kathryn Corbett
- Membership Chair** Kay Escarda
- Natural Resources** Jan Mathews
- Nominating Committee Chair** Nancy Kay
- Poll Workers Coordinator** Carolyn Otis
- Program Director** Lupe Lovio-Marlett
- Publications** Lorey Keele
- Publicity Chair** Mona Daly
- Social Policy** Maggie Fleming
- State of the Community** Maggie Fleming
- Mona Daly
- VOTER Publication** Amanda Windsor
- VOTER Circulation** Carolyn Otis
- Voters Service Director** Carol Masterson
- Web Master** Jesse Tunnell

Some of the spaces are blank!

Yes they are! Maybe *your* name would look great there. If you are an experienced leader or would like to gain experience in leadership, the League has a place for you!

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

539 G Street, Suite 103, Eureka CA 95502

Join Us For...

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				

September 4

League Booth, Festival on the Bay
Halvorson Park, Eureka

September 16-17

League Booth, North Country Fair
On the Plaza, Arcata

September 23

☆ LWVHC Membership Brunch ☆ 10:30-12:30
Eureka Woman's Club, 1531 J Street, Eureka

October 2,4,9,11,16,18

The LWVHC candidate debates on KEET TV.
See page 3 for a schedule.

October 7

League Booth, Apple Harvest Festival
Main Street, Fortuna

October 14

'Get Acquainted' Get-together
Time and location to be announced

October 19

General Meeting

October 23

The last day to register to vote to participate
in the November 7 election.

Find voter information for
your residence at:
smartvoter.org

For changes to the calendar and lots of other information
check out our League website at:
www.lwvhc.org

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County Diversity Policy 2006-2007

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to membership or participation in LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, or political affiliation.

The LWVHC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The LWVHC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, board and programs.

THE VOTER

September 2006

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P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

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