



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 49 No. 1

January - February 2007

## Inside This Issue

<b>Member Contributions!</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Award Recipients Announced</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Health Care for All Californians</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>The Judges Are Coming</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>KEET Candidate Forums Meeting</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>General Plan Update In Final Phase</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>News from the LWVUS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>LWVC Annual Convention</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Reproductive Freedom Day Event</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>The League Seeks New Office Space</b> .....	<b>6</b>

## Presidents' Message

*Byrd:* Here we are, writing for the February VOTER already. We missed sending a Happy New Year message to all our members because we didn't have a January VOTER, so first let's wish everyone a very happy and productive 2007. I hope everyone had a fun and restful holiday season overall. I sure did!

*Anne:* Absolutely! Speaking of fun, the first thing we need to talk about is the hugely successful League party at **Judy and John Bennett's** house which served to kick off holiday festivities and was the final event for the League's year-long 50th anniversary celebration.

*Byrd:* Wasn't that the perfect finale? I would estimate that there were close to 50 people there, and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. The Bennetts are such wonderful hosts!

*Anne:* That's for sure. Thank you both! I was especially happy to see some of our brand new members there. We had so many successful events during our anniversary year that it's hard to pick a favorite, but that party at Judy's really stands out for me. I feel sorry for the people who missed it.

*Byrd:* It was a great year of celebration! I'm hard-pressed to pick a favorite myself, but the membership brunch in September, where we signed up over 30 new members, was definitely a high point for me.

*Anne:* You know, working on the celebration last year was some of the most fun I've ever had as a Leaguer. From the beginning we were set up for success due to the make-up of the committee. I can't begin to thank them enough: **Judy Bennett, Kay Escarda, Carol Johnson, Rosemarie Falor-Luis, Byrd Lochtie, Lorey Keele, and Mona Daly.** How could we fail with a group like that? I hope you don't mind if I take a minute to recap all that took place (though I hope



*An Aleutian Goose (left) shares a nonpartisan moment with a Cackling Goose (right). Record numbers of Aleutian geese are making Humboldt County a migratory stopover.*

folks will forgive me if I miss anything—there's a lot!)

We had a lovely commemorative pin made which was purchased by almost 50 Leaguers; we published a great commemorative VOTER with a lot of fun articles and stories from our past; we held a really great non-primary dinner party at the Samoa Women's Club; we were the Grand Marshall for the Rhododendron Parade and many of us rode, walked and ran (!) the parade route giving out commemorative flags; we served birthday cake at numerous fairs throughout the summer; we had a very attractive and informative display at both the Humboldt County Library and the Clarke Museum with a classy reception at the Clarke; we had a very successful membership brunch bringing in many new members; we honored our hard-working election officials with honorary memberships, and we had the finale party at Judy and John's. Whew! It was busy, but it sure was fun! **THANK YOU ALL!!!**

*Byrd:* That's awesome, Anne! You and your committee out-did yourselves!

*Anne:* Thanks. It was great. I wish we could rest on our laurels a bit, but that doesn't seem to be something we know how to do in the League. We already have many more new things happening. Two months ago we started distributing our

*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

### Member Contributions!

Our League coffers continue to grow thanks to the dedicated, civic-minded Leaguers who donate their poll worker compensation to our League. To date, we have received \$1043 from the following League members: **Debbie Storre, Byrd Lochtie, Judy Bennett, Rudy Ramp, Kay and Lenny Escarda, Judy Longshore** and **Carolyn Otis**.

The poll worker contributions are the League's second highest earning fundraiser after the State of the Community Luncheon. We thank all these members both for volunteering at the polls, a fun but tiring job, and then for giving our League their earnings. Thanks to all of you.

We also want to recognize those who have financially contributed to our League in other ways. After taking office and realizing the magnitude of the job, Co-presidents **Anne Hartline** and **Byrd Lochtie** made contributions to the League's Education Fund at Humboldt Area Foundation in honor of **Mona Daly** and the wonderful job she did, single-handedly, as president.

And also our thanks to **Millie Brucker** for a contribution to our operating budget. Millie has been unable to attend our meetings due to health conditions, but sends her thanks and her dollars. Thank you, Millie.

-Judy Bennett, Treasurer

### Award Recipients Announced

The League is very pleased to announce that the 2007 recipients of our Civic Contribution Award will be **Marge Custis** and **Jan Kraepelien**. There is no doubt that both Marge and Jan's contributions to our community have been as significant as they have been selfless.

The League's annual State of the Community Luncheon will be held on Friday, April 20, 2007 from 12:00 to 1:30 at the Adorni Center in Eureka.

Mark your calendars for this date. Invitations will be mailed the last week in March.

See you there!

-Lois Busey,  
Financial Development Director

#### Welcome New Members!

Hollie Klingel  
Edeen Birkholz  
Lindsey  
McWilliams  
Lou Leeper

### CANCELLED!

*The General Membership Meeting for  
February 15 has been cancelled.*

*We encourage League members to attend the  
public hearing regarding the county's General  
Plan scheduled for the same evening.  
(see article on the next page.)*

### Presidents' Message Continued...

VOTER via e-mail for those members who prefer it that way. It will be interesting to see how much money we save on paper and postage, and we certainly are helping the environment. Thanks go to **Amanda Windsor** and **Mona Daly** for suggesting this change and to **Carolyn Otis**, our hard-working Circulation Director, for helping them make it happen.

*Byrd:* We have a new and improved Web site, just up and running, thanks to board member **Jesse Reid**. Anyone can now read our VOTER online at our Web site, [www.lwvhc.org](http://www.lwvhc.org). I hope everyone will take a look.

*Anne:* The State of the Community Luncheon Committee is hard at work preparing for our April 20 event. See the article above announcing our Civic Contribution Award Recipients.

*Byrd:* We also have a general membership meeting coming up in March addressing land use.

*Anne:* That reminds me --the board voted to try a few Saturday meetings, especially during the winter months when it gets so dark in the evenings. I hope our members will let us know if this is a helpful idea.

*Byrd:* We think this may be better for some of our members, so I hope we will be able to have a successful meeting in March when we plan to schedule a Saturday meeting as a trial.

*Anne:* That about wraps it up for this issue. Let's wish everyone a Happy New Year again!

-Anne and Byrd, Co-Presidents

## Voters Service

### *Health Care for All Californians*

California State Senator Sheila Kuehl's California OneCare (S.B. 840) was vetoed by the Governor in September of last year, but the issue is alive and kicking.

There has been much press about the Governor's recent proposal, and others are working on new and revised plans for comprehensive health insurance for all Californians.

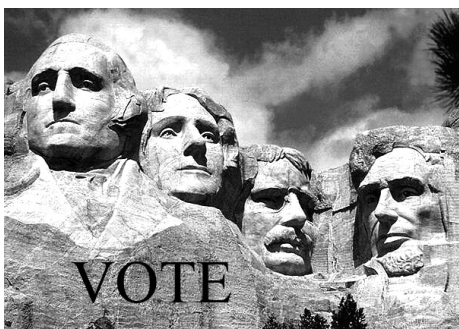
If you want to see what S.B. 840 was all about, we have a copy of frequently asked questions and a DVD from OneCareNow.org. Call the League office at 444-9252 to borrow a copy. Your League continues to listen to and work with local and state health care providers to help us be informed about this important issue.

### *The Judges Are Coming!*

Mark your calendar and save the date: the League's popular Meet the Judges event is scheduled for the evening of April 26, 2007, 6:30-8:30, to be held at the Humboldt County Library meeting room.

We would love some helping hands for this event. League members interested in helping our community meet with their Superior Court Judges, please call me at 677-0147.

-Melanie Johnson, Citizen Education



### *KEET Candidate Forums Meeting*

Candidate Forum Stars, here's your chance to celebrate what needs celebrating and fix what needs fixing regarding our KEET candidate forums.

The meeting is set for Thursday evening, February 8 at 5:30 in the KEET-TV studio at 7246 Humboldt Hill Road. Interested League members and KEET personnel will discuss what is working well, and what could use some fine-tuning. If you have some specific items for the agenda, please send them to me at buffy7@suddenlink.net. Even if you're unable to attend, we'd appreciate your input. Refreshments will be served, so please RSVP if you plan to be there.

-Carol Masterson, Voters Service

### *General Plan Update In Final Phase*

#### *Public Hearing Workshops To Begin*

The final phase of the county's General Plan Update process is beginning with a series of public hearing workshops, which we strongly encourage all concerned citizens to attend. The workshops will be held in the Board of Supervisors' Chamber at the Humboldt County Courthouse. The first will be on Thursday, February 15, 2007 beginning at 6 in the evening, barring any delays caused by other county business. The series will continue throughout the year.

The first workshop will consider Group 1 of the Preliminary Hearing Draft for the Humboldt County General Plan Update. Group 1 includes the following three chapters: Introduction, Public Guide to the General Plan, and Governance. These chapters discuss the purpose, form and content of the General Plan which will include a review of the Plan's intended uses, guiding principles, and a reader's guide. Also included are the county's policies regarding public participation, maintenance and amendments to the Plan, and inter-governmental coordination.

The next workshop will be held the following month, on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at the same time and place. The March workshop will consider Group 2 which includes the following four chapters: Mineral Resources, Energy Element, Waste Management, and Air Quality.

Future public hearing workshops will address the remaining chapter groups of the General Plan. You can be placed on the email list to receive notices of those workshops or find out how you can submit a written request to be placed on the mailing list by contacting Martha Spencer at (707) 268-3704 or by email at mspencer@co.humboldt.ca.us.

The Humboldt County Planning Division has an excellent General Plan Update website: [www.planupdate.org](http://www.planupdate.org). Background materials and a schedule of the proposed hearing dates can be accessed there. The sections of the Hearing Draft that are under review will be available on the website 30 days prior to the relevant public hearing. Hardcopies of the materials will be available at the Humboldt County Library, Main Branch, and at the Humboldt County Community Development Services, Planning Division, located at 3015 H Street in Eureka.

There will be space for public comment and testimony. Any person may appear and present information at the workshops. Anyone submitting materials to the Planning Commission will need to submit one original and 14 copies either prior to or at the meeting.

Hope to see you all there!

-Amanda Windsor, VOTER Editor

## LWVUS News

### *League Lauds New Presidential Public*

#### *Financing Legislation*

**Washington, DC-** The League of Women Voters today applauded the introduction of presidential public financing legislation in the House and Senate and called upon lawmakers to fix our presidential system once and for all.

“The 2008 Presidential election is already dominating headlines—and candidates are asking supporters to open their checkbooks earlier than ever before,” Mary G. Wilson, national League president observed. “League members and voters agree: we need public financing for presidential elections.”

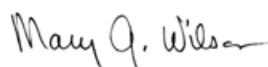
“Today’s legislation aims at cutting the reins that big money and special interests have over presidential elections in this country,” said Wilson. We need to have fair competition for votes, not a mad rush for big dollars. I encourage all members of Congress to support the Shays-Meehan-Price bill and make a real commitment to changing the way presidential elections are run.”

The legislation, introduced by Reps. Meehan (D MA), Shays (R CT), and Price (D NC), as well as Sen. Feingold (D WI), increases the amount of matching funds for the presidential primaries, increases the spending limit for candidates choosing to participate in the public financing system, and moves the starting date for the payment of matching funds to primary candidates from January 1 of the election year to six months before the first primary. If passed, the legislation would go into effect January 1, 2009.

### *Message From the LWVUS President*

As 2006 comes to a close, I’m struck by the remarkable work of League members and citizens across the country this year. In 2006, we saw thousands of new registered voters, implementation of new voting procedures in nearly all states, and healthy public debate on the issues that affect our lives. The need for public education and participation in these activities will only intensify as we approach the next presidential election--and the League needs your help!

League members are hard at work in your community educating voters, working with lawmakers to shape sound policies, and ensuring that all citizens have the access as well as the inspiration they need to participate in our democracy. Thank you for all your hard work--and please continue to join us in our efforts in 2007 and beyond!



President, LWVUS

### *LWVC Annual Convention*

On January 25, LWVHC held a Program Planning Meeting that included State Program Planning. In May, from the 18th to the 20th, your delegates to the LWVC Convention will be voting on the proposed two year program for the state League. In between, our local board will be reviewing the direction from the membership at our planning meeting, and forwarding our ideas to the state board, who will put all the local ideas together and present a recommended program to the delegates in May.

The LWV of California Convention 2007, *Rally in the Valley*, will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Bakersfield. Our League will send delegates, and all members are invited to attend as guests and/or volunteers. The state Convention is a time for electing officers and board members, for adopting the state League budget, and for adopting the state program for the next two years. There will also be a keynote speaker, Dolores Huerta, activist and co-founder of the United Farm Workers.

But the Convention is more than that. It is a time for networking and meeting new friends. There will be discussion groups and caucuses for the many ideas on program brought forward by the state as well as local Leagues. It will be a chance to learn about the Bakersfield area, including their multi-billion-dollar agriculture industry, their small-town America atmosphere, and their arts and culture expressed through art, food, books, and other local products.

If you have never attended a state Convention, you will find this a way to learn more about other people and places in California. Call the League phone at 442-9252 and express your interest—we will get back to you with more information as soon as we receive it.

Byrd Lochtie, Co-President

### *Reproductive Freedom Day Event*

League members are again invited to attend Reproductive Freedom Day on March 21, 2007 to be held at the Sacramento Convention Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

At this yearly event we come together to educate our legislators on important issues for the year and to caucus with other women's health advocate groups from all over California.

You can register online at [www.ccrf.eventbrite.com](http://www.ccrf.eventbrite.com); for more information call 415-346-0563. We hope to see many of you at this event.

**Board Briefs...**

From the December and January Board meetings:

The Power Point presentation on the history of LWVHC should be made available on the LWVHC website

**Jan Mathews** thanked **Byrd Lochtie** for presenting the LWVHC letter to the Supervisors regarding the time line of the General Plan.

**Byrd Lochtie** will remind members of League memberships in coalitions and the policy regarding this.

There are now 177 official LWVHC members whose names have been submitted to LWVUS.

The Finance Committee will begin planning the budget, and it will be presented to the membership in the Annual Meeting Kit in April.

Humboldt Access is finalizing its agreement with Eureka High School, and the Fortuna City Council meetings will air in two or three weeks using the newly purchased equipment. Fortuna City Council will be the model for other Access partners.

-Sharolyn Hutton, Secretary

*The League of Women Voters  
of Humboldt County*

539 G Street, Suite 103, Eureka CA 95502  
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** ..... Kay Escarda
- Member** ..... Melanie Johnson
- Member** ..... Carol Masterson
- Member** ..... Jan Mathews
- Member** ..... Jesse Reid
- Member** ..... Amanda Windsor

- Action Chair**..... Jan Mathews
- Calling Committee Chair** .....
- Candidate & Issues Forums** .... Carol Masterson
- Citizen Education** ..... Melanie Johnson
- Community Relations** .....
- Financial Development Director** .....Lois Busey
- Government** .....
- 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** .....
- State of the Community**.....Maggie Fleming  
.....Mona Daly
- VOTER Publication**..... Amanda Windsor
- VOTER Circulation**..... Carolyn Otis
- Voters Service Director** ..... Carol Masterson
- Web Master** .....Jesse Reid

*The League Seeks New Office Space*

Got space? Your League is looking for a new office in Eureka. We don't need something bigger, our current 175-200 square feet is just fine; but our current "office" is divided into 3 rooms, perfect for individual workers that all want their own space but not so good for the League.

If you know of a place that might suit us, please leave a message at the League Office: 444-9252.

-Melanie Johnson, Citizen Education

*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.

<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.

*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

## Calendar

FEBRUARY						
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			

MARCH						
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

February 1	Board Meeting, 6-8 P.M. Humboldt Assoc. of Realtors, 527 W. Wabash, Eureka
February 8	KEET Forum Meeting, 5:30 P.M. 7246 Humboldt Hill Rd , Eureka
February 15	General Plan Public Hearing Workshop, 6 P.M., Supervisors Chamber County Court House, Eureka
March 8	Board Meeting, 6-8 P.M. Humboldt Assoc. of Realtors, 527 W. Wabash, Eureka
March 15	General Plan Public Hearing Workshop, 6 P.M., Supervisors Chamber County Court House, Eureka
March 17	General Membership Meeting, 6-8 P.M. Time & Location To Be Announced (Note the new Saturday date!)

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

### January - February 2007

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

Editor: Amanda Windsor

### Address Service Requested

Please send address updates to:  
Circulation: Carolyn Otis  
1056 13th Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 166  
Eureka, CA