



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 49 No. 2

☆ March is Women's History Month! ☆

March 2007

Inside This Issue

State and Local Program Planning.....	2
Your VOTER.....	2
Citizen's Guide Update	2
A Forum Forum.....	3
The Art and Science of Planning Land Use.....	3
Office Space Update	3
News From the National League.....	5
News From the State League	5



Board Member Melanie Johnson and long-time League member Milt Boyd at the HSU Career/Volunteer Fair

Presidents' Message

Anne: Hi, Byrd, what's new this month?

Byrd: Well, for starters I want to mention a call I had from long-time League member **Janis Schleunes**. She wanted to let me know that our own Leaguer and board member, **Kay Escarda**, is featured in the February issue of *Contact*, the California Retired Teachers Magazine. Kay has a photo and a whole page devoted to her work as a commentator on KINS radio!

Anne: That IS impressive. What is the gist of the article?

Byrd: The emphasis is on the bi-weekly three-minute commentary that Kay writes and delivers on the radio. It airs five times during the day of her comment. She talks about issues that are dear to her heart. She is not speaking for the League, but some of the issues she addresses are near and dear to us as well.

The best part, for me at least, is that the article mentions that this came about as a result of Kay's conversation with the manager of KINS at our 2006 State of the Community Luncheon. They were both honorees last year; we honored Kay for her community contributions and KINS for their extensive election coverage in the community.

Anne: That's great. Congratulations Kay! How can Leaguers hear her weekly commentary?

Byrd: They can tune in to KINS every other Monday at 6:55, 7:55 or 8:55 in the morning, or in the afternoon at 4:55 or 5:55.

Anne: What else do we want our members to know?

Byrd: Members may not realize this, but several committees are already hard at work preparing for our Annual Meeting on May 17. We need to mail out the Annual Meeting Kit at least 30 days before the meeting, and several things that go into the kit need to be approved by the board at the March meeting.

Anne: Oh, yes, I remember that the board already approved the proposed program for next year. Isn't that what came from the Program Planning meeting in January?

Byrd: That's right, and we expect to hear from the Budget Committee and the Bylaws Committee in March.

Anne: Can't members also make suggestions for those committees to consider?

Byrd: Yes, they can. We would love to hear from anyone who has ideas and concerns about the budget or the bylaws.

Anne: I think members should put the date of the annual meeting—**May 17**—on their calendars right now!

Byrd: I agree. We need to have a quorum in order to conduct our business, and as our League grows in membership, the number to reach our 20% quorum grows, too.

Anne: On another subject, I was pleased to see that we are trying a Saturday meeting to see if this is a convenient time for the general membership. We are meeting at the Eureka Women's Club for an educational meeting about how

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

State and Local Program Planning

We had an energetic group of eighteen League members who had many ideas about what issues they would like to look at for the next year.

The evening started with socializing and food. **Lois Busey** was kind enough to prepare her famous lasagna as the main course, with many other side dishes provided by other League members. Thank you Lois, and everyone else who contributed to a fine and filling meal.

The discussion on State Program Planning began after the introduction to the program planning process. Members had the opportunity to note which state positions should be retained, reviewed, updated, or deleted. In addition, we discussed what state positions LWVC should emphasize in the upcoming biennium. The group forwarded several recommendations to the LWVHC Board.

At its meeting in February, the LWVHC board voted to send recommendations for two position updates to the state League:

1. Update on Election Systems with emphasis on electronic voting
2. Update on Water

The board also voted to endorse the LWVC Board's participation in the new three-year LWVUS study on immigration, with the understanding that LWVHC will participate as a local League.

The board agreed to forward the following three areas of emphasis to LWVC.

1. Education with emphasis on unfunded mandates
2. Universal Health Care (SB840, One Plan Now) with emphasis on Mental Health
3. Energy with emphasis on nuclear energy

For our local Program Planning discussion, we divided into five small groups to look over the various local positions that were assigned to each group. Groups then reported back as to whether the positions needed to be retained, reviewed, updated, or deleted. Consensus followed a lively discussion about the issues. The recommendations were sent to the LWVHC Board who will present a recommended program to the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 17. I

hope to see all of you there!

-Lupe Lovio-Marlett,
Vice President

Welcome
New Member!
Karen T. Diemer

Your VOTER

It's not been my experience that Leaguers lack for things to say. Have you got a tale to tell?

What has the League meant to you? Was there a time when the League met your needs as a voter and citizen, maybe even before you knew what those needs were? What inspired YOU to join the League?

Drop the League a line at vote@lwvhc.org or mail us at P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502, and share your story.

Citizen's Guide Update

The Citizen's Guide to County Government has undergone its annual update with all the election results and the finalized county budget figures, and it is available at the League Web site.

The web version is the place for the most up-to-date information, hyperlinks to county Web resources and print-friendly PDF files. If you're feeling very 'desktop publisher' that day, download it in double-sided half-page booklet format. If considering the issues has taken all your concentration, there's also a full-page version.

-Amanda Windsor,
VOTER Editor

Presidents' Message Continued...

communities like McKinleyville can make their adopted General Plans work for them when it comes to making wise development choices.

Byrd: Yes. **Melanie Smith** and **Rudy Ramp** are putting together a program with time allowed for questions and discussion from the audience. Aren't you leading the discussion for that meeting?

Anne: Yes, I am, and I hope we have a really good turnout for this experiment. We are trying to make it easier for some members to attend by changing the day and the time AND the location! I know it will be much easier for me!

Byrd: Let's end on that note, encouraging everyone to come to the General Membership Meeting on March 17—a Saturday!

-Anne and Byrd, Co-Presidents



Voters Service

A Forum Forum

Thanks to all who attended the meeting at KEET-TV to discuss our broadcast candidate forums. Fifteen League members and KEET personnel spent more than ninety minutes discussing what we liked and what could be improved.

There was general agreement that the format using questions from both viewers and journalists is a good balance, that simulcasts on KHSU help us reach a larger audience, and that the community appreciates our efforts.

While there were many great nuts-and-bolts suggestions for smoothing out the internal workings of the forums, a couple of the more exciting ideas include putting them on our Web site for viewing at any time, and working with Access Humboldt to air them after the KEET broadcasts.

Thanks to our most able facilitator, Co-Prez **Byrd Lochtie**, for keeping everything moving, and our esteemed scribe, **Sharolyn Hutton**, for documenting the proceedings. Watch for results in next year's primary season, if not before!

-Carol Masterson,
Voters Service Director

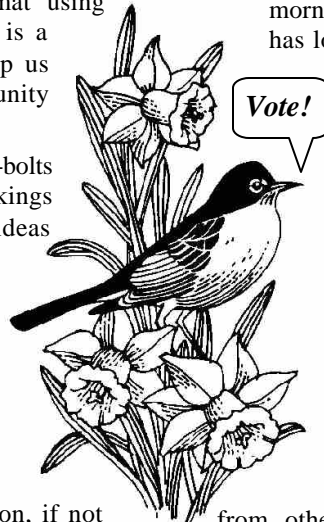
General Meeting: The Art and Science of Planning Land Use

Dr. Steven Steinberg, Associate Professor of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing at Humboldt State University, will present a program at the Eureka Women's Club, 1531 J Street, on Saturday morning, March 17 from 10 to 12. Dr. Steinberg has long been doing applied research in GIS-based analysis of natural resources and social science information, with a particular focus on the interactions between them.

The presentation will feature current research which specifically looks at future growth and development of McKinleyville. According to LWVHC member **Dr. Rudy Ramp**, the software the team is using "allows them to input an assortment of population growth and housing development variables to help us visualize the impact of land-use for various scenarios."

In addition to the PowerPoint presentation, the two-hour program will include comments from other knowledgeable participants and time for questions from the audience.

Refreshments will be available. If you can help with set-up or other tasks on the day of the program, please call the League Office at 444-9252. It will be much appreciated.



Office Space Update

The Office Space Committee has property management companies and real estate offices looking for suitable space for the League's new office.

Our needs are modest: approximately 200 square feet with configuration to accommodate a meeting table for 14 people plus storage and a desk, centrally located (Eureka), safe, dry, secure, at a budget price. There are several places available which meet all of our criteria except the last one. Maybe someone you know would be willing to negotiate for the perfect tenant.

If you have a lead, please leave a message at the League Office at 444-9252. Thank you.

-Melanie Johnson,
Citizen Education

FEED THAT PARKING METER!

There's no need to incur a debt to society in order to meet your duly elected **Superior Court Judges**. Just attend your League's

Meet the Judges Event

Thursday, April 26
6:30 to 8:30 P.M.

Humboldt County Library
Community Meeting Room
1313 Third Street, Eureka

Refreshments will be provided.



News from The National League

The League of Women Voters turns 87

Washington, DC— The League of Women Voters celebrates its 87th birthday on February 14. As the League honors the dedicated work of its many volunteer members over the years, and the accomplishments that have resulted, it is also looking to the future. In 2007, League members will continue their commitment to improving communities across the country. Nationally, the League continues its work of strengthening voter participation and education, as well as promoting meaningful public policy change in the areas of civil liberties, representative government, and social policy.

“For nearly nine decades, Leagues members have engaged citizens in major public policy debates all over this country and encouraged elected leaders to support sound policies that benefit all citizens. They’ve registered and educated millions of voters. They’ve dedicated countless volunteer hours to improving their communities—and in doing so have made an incredible national and global impact,” said League President Mary G. Wilson.

“Looking back, I could not be more proud of the League’s legacy of providing quality, trustworthy and balanced resources to citizens and lawmakers alike. The League of Women Voters truly has left its footprint on American history, and I believe our democracy is stronger because of it.”

“Looking forward, I recognize that there is much work to be done. Today and in the future, the League remains committed to fulfilling its vital voter education role,” said Wilson. “Our members also look forward to affecting change by working on pressing issues such campaign finance reform, civil liberties, DC voting rights, election administration, ethics and lobbying reform, global climate change, healthcare reform and more.”

News from The State League

Sunshine Week - March 11-17

"Sunshine Week 2007" is a national program to stimulate public discussion about why open government is important to everyone. It is sponsored by journalism groups, media companies, open-government and First Amendment advocates, librarians and educators.

We believe that the survival of our democracy depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens at all levels of government. We believe that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by:

- giving adequate notice of proposed actions
- holding open meetings
- making public records accessible.

Find out more at: www.sunshineweek.org.

League Urges House Leadership to Seize

Opportunity; Secure DC Voting Rights

Washington, DC-National League president Mary G. Wilson today issued this statement strongly urging the House leadership and other members of Congress to take immediate action on D.C. voting rights.

“With new leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives, legislation to provide voting rights in the House for citizens of the District of Columbia, H.R. 328, has a real chance of passage on the House floor,” said Wilson. “It is not only in the best interest of D.C. citizens, but in the interest of all Americans, that Congress strike while the iron is hot on this vital equal rights issue.”

“We call on the Speaker and the Majority Leader to schedule the bill soon, before the spring recess and before the House is consumed in other business,” she said.

Citizens of the District of Columbia pay U.S. taxes, fight and die for the U.S. during wartime, and are governed by the laws that Congress passes. And yet they have no voting representation in Congress. They have only a non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives. The League’s Lobby Corps members have been meeting with members of Congress on this issue since the new session began last month. Tomorrow, February 15, is Congress Day 2007, an event in which elected officials and other citizen advocates walk the halls of Congress to educate members of Congress and their staff on the D.C. Voting Rights Act.

“Citizens will be carrying a very strong message to Capitol Hill tomorrow: it is time for Congress to right this wrong,” added Wilson. “Only Congress can ensure that the democracy Americans have espoused and fought for across the globe becomes a reality in the nation’s capital.”

The “D.C. Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act,” sponsored by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D DC) and Representative Tom Davis (R VA), provides voting representation in the House for DC citizens by increasing the size of the House by two seats – one for D.C. and the other for the state of Utah, which is entitled to the next seat by size of population. This balanced approach provides voting rights for District citizens without upsetting the partisan balance of the House.



Board Briefs...

From the February Board meeting:

Thank you notes were shared from: 1) **Tim Stevenson** for the memorial gift for **Melissa Stevenson**; 2) the **Ingebritson** family for contribution in memory of their mother to the scholarship fund; and 3) Senator **Wes Chesbro** for assistance in selecting scholarship candidates for the Wes Chesbro Scholarship Fund during the past eight years. (There will be no Wes Chesbro scholarships this year.)

Jesse Reid has resigned from the Access Humboldt Board and the board appointed **Amanda Windsor** to represent LWVHC in his place.

Guidelines for LWVHC's participation with other organizations will be reviewed at the March 8th board meeting.

For the LWVC Legislative Interview, **Mona Daly** will arrange a February meeting with Rep. **Patty Berg**.

Pat Charley's letter of resignation from the board, as well as from the Executive Committee, was accepted with regret. Carol Masterson was elected to replace Charley on the Executive Committee

For LWVHC Program Planning, the board voted to forward to the membership two Education and Advocacy areas. They are: 1) Library Facilities, with an emphasis on funding, and 2) Education with an emphasis on #6, special education. Any updates and areas of emphasis will be presented to the membership in the Annual Meeting Kit, with the caveat that they will be undertaken only if a sufficient number of members are available to work on them.

Beverly Post was appointed to the Budget Committee.

-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
- Access Humboldt Rep.** Amanda Windsor
- 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

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!

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:

- \$50 Individual membership
- \$75 Household membership
- \$50 Associate membership
- Additional donation of _____
- I cannot join at this time, but please accept my donation of _____
- Please send me more information
- I would like to be contacted by the nominating committee

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

539 G Street, Suite 103, Eureka CA 95502

Calendar

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

APRIL						
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					

March 8 **Board Meeting**, 6-8 P.M.
H.A.R., 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**, Planning Land Use
Eureka Women's Club, 10 A.M.-12 P.M.
1531 J Street, Eureka
(Note the new Saturday date!)

April 12 **Board Meeting**, 6-8 P.M.
H.A.R., 527 W. Wabash, Eureka

April 20 **State of the Community Luncheon**
Adorni Center, Eureka, 12-1:30 P.M.
1011 Waterfront Drive, Eureka

April 26 **Meet The Judges**, 6:30-8:30 P.M.
Humboldt County Library, Meeting Room
1313 Third Street, Eureka

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.

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