



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 49 No. 4

May 2007

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Presidents' Message

Byrd: Hi Anne. Have you come down yet from the high of our classy and successful State of the Community Luncheon last Friday?

Anne: I'm still savoring the line in the *Times-Standard* story that stated the gathering included "the who's who of Humboldt County's government and nonprofit leaders." It truly was a great event and a fun one too!

Byrd: I was so impressed with all our speakers. Our very deserving recipients **Marge Custis** and **Jan Kraepelien** both spoke from the heart and to standing ovations from the crowd of nearly 300 people.

Anne: Yes, and **Bonnie Neely** gave an excellent presentation about all the good things happening now in Humboldt County. She mentioned so many things that I simply wasn't aware of. **Lloyd Throne** especially impressed me with his insights and praise for our county organizations; he seemed genuinely delighted to be back in Humboldt County to talk about the many innovative and successful human services programs we have here.

Byrd: I want to thank the co-chairs of the Planning Committee: **Maggie Fleming** and **Mona Daly**, as well as the co-chairs of the Steering Committee: **Judy Bennett** and **Judy Stoffer**.

Anne: Absolutely! We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful committee of League members who work very hard to make our annual event so successful.

Byrd: I recently heard about another great success in our community. McKinleyville Middle School is one of just two in the county to receive the California Distinguished School Award this year. Don't be embarrassed if I say that I consider that to be quite a coup for you as a first year principal, Anne! I know how much effort you and your staff put into the application alone.

League
Annual
Meeting
2007



Your
League
needs
YOU!

May 17, 2007

<p>5:30 Registration 6:30 Meeting Begins Baywood Country Club 3600 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata</p>	<p>Dinner Catered by: Baywood Country Club \$25 per person pre-registered \$27 at the door</p>
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Anne: Well, thanks, Byrd. I'll admit that I'm pretty darn proud. The award is a tribute to all the students, staff, and family support at MMS, and has little to do with me, but I'm thrilled nonetheless. The fact that the other school being honored is McKinleyville High makes it an honor for the entire community as well. It's so wonderful to be recognized in this way.

Byrd: I am so proud to be in a League with you and with all our members who work so hard to make our community stronger.

Anne: And now, shouldn't we be reminding our members about our next special League event?

Byrd: Absolutely! The Annual Meeting is the business meeting of the League. It is the time to elect board members and officers, approve the budget for 2007-08, and vote on our program ideas for next year.

Anne: I want to be sure to remind all our members that we must have a quorum to do business. We have many new members this year so that increases the number of attendees

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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



“Some of the best, most capable people I've ever met in my life are in this room.”

-Keynote Speaker Lloyd Throne, at the State of the Community Luncheon on Saturday, April 21

Presidents' Message Continued...

needed to constitute a quorum.

Byrd: Our bylaws require 20% of our members to be in attendance for a quorum. This year that number is 37 members.

Anne: Well, that's a pretty big number. Do you think we will be able to get our quorum?

Byrd: Of course we will! Leaguers are informed and active participants. They are all reading their Annual Meeting Kits and preparing to come to the meeting on May 17 to vote!

Anne: If they need more incentive, they should know that I brought back the special door prize from my trip to Jamestown, Virginia where they are celebrating the 400-year anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown fort. It's a great prize that I think anyone would like!

Byrd: Terrific! I hope everyone will plan to come to our Annual meeting!

Anne: We'll see you all at Baywood on May 17!

-Anne and Byrd,
Co-Presidents

State of the Community Luncheon

I hope League members are not yet weary of reports of great success, because the League's 15th Annual State of the Community Luncheon must be described as such. We had record attendance this year, and we were very pleased with the local media attention it received. The *Times-Standard* and *The Eureka Reporter* both covered the event, as did KIEM TV Channel 3.

Many thanks to the SOCL Committee for all their hard work on this vital fundraiser. **Maggie Fleming** and **Mona Daly** as co-chairs smoothly guided the committee through many months of preparation. **Judy Bennett** and **Judy Stoffer** as co-chairs of the Steering Committee did a spectacular job with the fundraising aspect of this event.

Three cheers for our Steering Committee: **Virginia Bass, Milton Boyd, Lois Lee Busey, Sharon Cissna, Brenda Davis, Kay Escarda, Nancy Kay, Elizabeth Murguia, Patty Ohman, Paula Parodi, Christine Peters, Kathie Simas, Laurie Watson Stone, Sally Upatisinga, and Ginger Vance** AND our Planning Committee: **Judy Bennett, Lois Lee Busey, Patricia Charley, Brenda Davis, Kay Escarda, Jackie Foote, Cheryl Ingham, Nancy Kay, Lorey Keele, Carolyn Otis, and Judy Stoffer.**

Special thanks also to **Plaza Design** and **The Sun Valley Group** for their help with the decorating.

-Amanda Windsor,
VOTER Editor

And Now, a Word for Our Sponsors

Well, it's over, and it was *terrific*, another wonderful State of the Community Luncheon. Of course, I have a certain amount of pride being on the committee.

I want specifically to thank those contributors that gave us additional donations. Most of these people weren't able to attend the event, but wanted to support the League and honor our award recipients, **Marge Custis** and **Jan Kraepelien.**

Our thanks to the following generous donors:

Don and Lujean Avant	Sarah Christensen
Sally Arnot	Hollie Klingel
Graystone Jewelers	Muriel Dinsmore
Paul Nicholson of	Brenda Malloy
State Farm Insurance	Peggy Schmidbauer
Holly Yashi	Carol and Bennie Wagner
Rosemarie Falor-Luis	Thea Gast
Lynn Wells	

We are most grateful for your support of the League.

-Judy Bennett,
Treasurer

Voters Service

Spring into Voters Service

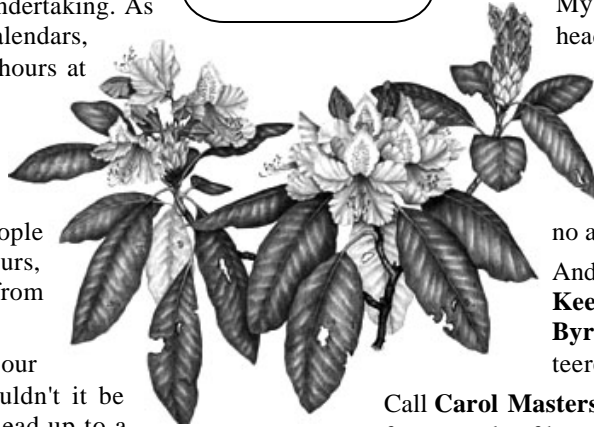
Heads up, all you outdoor types! Get out the sunscreen (and the rain gear). We're getting a running start to the League summer season with our aid station at the Avenue of the Giants Marathon. Next, it's our Fourth of July voter registration booths at the Eureka and Arcata celebrations, a most ambitious undertaking. As you contemplate your summer calendars, please consider spending a few hours at one of these locations.

We need at least three people for the morning setup and the same for the evening takedown of each booth, plus two people staffing the booth during fair hours, generally in two-hour shifts from 10 to 6.

The Fourth has become one of our major registration days and wouldn't it be fine to set some records in this lead-up to a presidential election.

It's fun, entertaining, and a great service to both the League and the voters. 768-3118 or buffy7@suddenlink.net. Call me soon!

-Carol Masterson,
Voters Service Director



**Welcome
New Members!**
*Anne Harris
Mark Harris*

Avenue of the Giants Marathon

Get out in the redwoods on a Sunday afternoon, help earn some money for the League, and give much appreciated aid to this year's runners. We can always use a few more hands to pour water, cut up oranges, and make sure we leave the Avenue beautiful.

My thanks to **Carol Masterson** for heading up the League crew this year while Lenny and I escape to Medford, Oregon for a softball tournament.

Why do all events happen on the same day? I know, there is no answer to that question.

And thanks also to: **Chuck and Lorey Keele, Sharolyn and Dave Hutton, and Byrd Lochtie** who have already volunteered.

Call **Carol Masterson** at 768-3118 if you can volunteer for a couple of hours on Sunday, May 6.

-Kay Escarda,
Membership Chair



Annual Meeting Ahoy! - May 17, 2007

Planning for the Annual Meeting is the responsibility of your Membership Chair. That is I, the person who will not be with you all at the Baywood Country Club in Bayside on May 17. Lenny and I will be at the California Retired Teachers Association Convention. We are both on state committees and are obligated to attend.

Why do all events happen on the same day? Where have you heard that one before, right?

I have made the arrangements, but have enlisted the help of some members to carry out the evening duties. Judy Bennett receives your **pre-paid checks and reservations** and will turn in the count by May 10. (See your Annual Meeting Kit for details). Judy will also receive your **dues** for the coming year if you wish to pay that night. Help make her job easier!

Thank you to **Sarah Turner** for overseeing the event, and to **Nancy Quintrel, and Sharolyn Hutton** who have also volunteered to make the evening run smoothly.

FREE

Just like that mythical lunch, the Annual Meeting Dinner is *not* free, but the business meeting IS!!

You can choose to join us only for the business meeting at 6:30 P.M. and pay nothing.

Help us make our quorum!!

The League Membership List will be available. Please remember that the list is for members' use only, by member request and Board decision.

Please plan to attend and help the League make the decisions for the fiscal year 2007-08, including election of officers and board members. A quorum is necessary to carry out any business. Unfortunately, Lenny and I can't contribute to the quorum count, so I'm counting on YOU!

I wish I could be with you all.

-Kay Escarda,
Membership Chair

News from The National League

A Major Win for Democracy:

***League Strongly Applauds Passage of
DC House Voting Rights Act***

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters today celebrated the passage of the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act before the U.S. House of Representatives. This legislation, which passed by a vote of 241-177, will grant the more than 600,000 citizens living in our nation’s capital voting representation in the House.

“Finally, Congress has begun to right the wrong they’ve committed against DC citizens,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson. “As this legislation moves on to the Senate, the League will be behind lawmakers every step of the way, urging them to do the right thing. We will also look to President Bush to put his full backing behind this bill and provide equal rights to the half-million Americans at his doorstep.”

“For two hundred years, citizens living in our nation’s capital have been denied their constitutional right to elect a voting member to the body that taxes them, makes their laws, and sends their men and women to war. That changes today.”

Since 1938, the League of Women Voters has worked to support self-government and representation in the District of Columbia. In the 110th Congress, the League has worked closely with lawmakers and other groups to encourage the immediate passage of long overdue legislation granting voting rights in the House of Representatives.

The “DC 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 DC 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.

About the League Office

The League likes to encourage citizens to ‘make democracy work’. After carefully considering all of its options, your Board has decided to ‘make the office work’. We are no longer actively looking for a new location.

There is the possibility of renovations to our current office that will make the space better fit our needs, and we may also be allowed to use another office in the same building for our board meetings.

-Amanda Windsor,
VOTER Editor

News from The State League

*Redistricting Reform Is Alive and Deserves
Speedy Consideration, Say Reform Groups*

Sacramento—Major citizens' reform groups today applauded the legislators and their leaders who have set the stage for serious consideration of redistricting reform in the California Legislature in the coming weeks. In less than ten days, three separate bills requiring redistricting by an independent commission have been introduced. These bills complement the proposal made by the Governor in December and the placeholder bill by the Assembly minority leader. Reformers are calling for work on the bills to begin without delay.

"Californians are ready for basic change in the way redistricting is done," stated AARP State Director Tom Porter. "They are tired of forcing legislators into a system where they have an inherent conflict of interest, drawing the very lines that determine their electoral future." Voters and policy makers alike are frustrated that incumbent protection and party benefit are the common results of such a system.

Added Jacqueline Jacobberger, president of the League of Women Voters of California, "It's time for the legislative process to work as it should, with careful scrutiny of provisions and their implications, input from interested parties, and the opportunity to make improvements before anything is set in stone." The reformers called for hearings on the bills to be scheduled as soon as possible.

Call To Action - S.B. 840

The League of Women Voters of California continues to support S.B. 840, now called the California Universal Healthcare Act (CUHA). Senator Sheila Kuehl reintroduced an amended version of the former S.B. 840 for the 2007-2008 legislative session.

This year's campaign requires new strategies for expanding our movement. We must educate new senators and assembly members who may not be aware of the advantages and cost savings that a single payer universal health care system could provide for all Californians--individuals, businesses, and governments. Now, there are several competing health care plans, including a plan put forth by the governor. These new plans provide a stage for activists to compare their costs and benefits to Kuehl's plan--still the only viable solution for the health care crisis.

Please use this opportunity for shoring up or seeking new support and building awareness of the grassroots level of support for SB 840. All senators should hear that SB 840 is beginning to work its way to the governor's desk again and that constituent support is greater than ever for passage of universal health care. Contact your senator giving the message that the only viable and affordable solution for California's health care crisis is Senator Kuehl's plan.

Board Briefs...

From the April Board meeting:

LWVHC members mailed the ballots for the Bear River Election on March 26, 2007. The completed ballots received by the LWVHC will be counted on April 26, 2007.

The donation of \$200 for Smart Voter that was authorized by the board in March has been sent by the Humboldt Area Foundation to the LWVC Education Fund.

The California Universal Health Bill, SB840, now is being reintroduced. Daly will research and compose the letter of support for Senator Kuehl's bill and present it to the Executive Committee.

The Scholarship Committee consisting of **Kay Escarda, Melanie Johnson, Byrd Lochtie** and **Jan Mathews**, will present updates and revisions to the present scholarship documents at the May Board meeting.

Past President **Mona Daly** will be the LWVHC delegate to the annual LWVC Convention. She composed a convention roll call poem, which she shared with the board members. In addition, LWVHC VOTERS have been submitted for consideration by the LWVC for recognition at the convention.

The board directed **Kay Escarda** to send copies of the 50th Anniversary VOTER to LWVUS for possible publication.

Daly shared her goal of providing various classes for new members in order to build the pool of trained members. There will be sign-up sheets at the Annual Meeting for these classes.

The board voted to donate \$100 to CASA in honor of the judges participating in the 'Meet Your Judges' forum.

-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

MAY						
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		

JUNE						
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

May 3 **Board Meeting**, 6-8 P.M.
Humboldt Association. of Realtors.,
527 W. Wabash, Eureka

May 6 Avenue of the Giants Marathon, 10 A.M.-12 P.M.
Volunteer Opportunity, Myers Flat

May 17 **Annual Meeting**
☆ Baywood Country Club, 3600 Buttermilk Ln., Arcata
Registration begins at 5:30, Business Meeting 6:30
☆ Dinner is \$25 pre-registered, \$27 at the door
For more information call 442-9252 ☆

June 7 **Board Meeting**, 6-8 P.M.
539 G Street, Suite 103, Eureka
Newly elected Board members welcome!!
Dinner will be a potluck.

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

May 2007

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

Editor: Amanda Windsor