



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

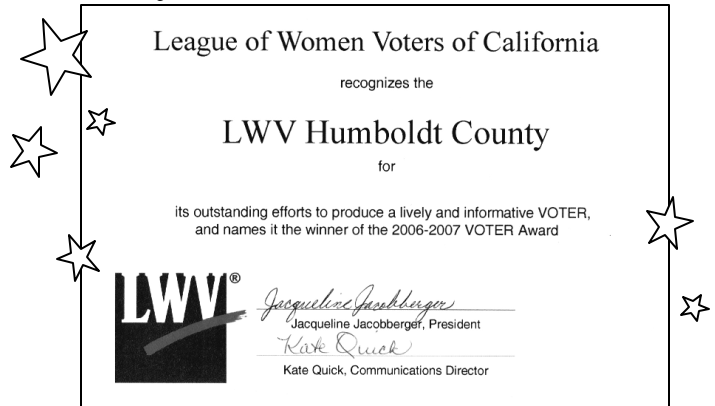
Vol. 49 No. 5

June/July 2007

Inside This Issue

'Meet Your Judges' Goes Swimmingly.....	2
Just Another Beautiful Day in Paradise.....	3
Voters Service Needs You.....	3
Catching Up with Kay.....	3
Rally Report.....	4
News From the National & State Leagues.....	4
Observer Corps.....	4
On a Roll Call.....	5

Kudos from the State Convention!



It's official. Your League is the winner of the 2006-2007 VOTER Award for bringing you the most lively and informative VOTER in California.

Presidents' Message

Byrd: Hi, Anne. I have just returned home from our Annual Meeting, and I feel a tremendous pride in the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County. Wasn't it marvelous to see more than fifty Leaguers gathered together at Baywood?

Anne: It was! I especially enjoyed seeing so many long-time League friends mixed in with a large number of new members. It felt very validating and revitalizing. There was such positive energy in the room, and a justifiable feeling of pride in our organization—and the new Board looks GREAT!

Byrd: We are so very fortunate that **Mona Daly** has agreed to be President again. I hope she will have as much support from her Board as we have had from ours this year.

Anne: Oh, I know she will! As an educator, I can't help mentioning how much I LOVE Mona's idea for classes/workshops on the League. What a great and forward-thinking idea! Mona is such an inspiration to us all! LWVHC is in very good hands for the 2007-2008 year.

Byrd: For those who weren't there, we welcomed **Armeda Reitzel, Meghan Vogel, and Nancy Quintrell** as new members to the board, and welcomed back **Lorey Keele**. Of course, continuing to serve on the board are **Mona Daly, Sharolyn Hutton, Judy Bennett, Amanda Windsor, Carol Masterson, and Kay Escarda**. And I've heard a rumor that **Lois Busey** and **Melanie Johnson** may be appointed by Mona to serve on the Board. This should be an active and involved Board with new ideas, new energy, and a solid grounding in League policies and practices!

Anne: My favorite part of the evening was honoring **Lorey Keele** as our Leaguer of the Year before she comes back on the Board and becomes ineligible for this particular award. Lorey is simply one of my favorite people and I know that she has done so much, largely behind-the-scenes, to help all of us achieve our League goals.

Byrd: I agree! Lorey is a dedicated League member who is willing to do so many different things for the League. Congratulations, Lorey, on this richly deserved award! And congratulations, **Nancy Kay** and the rest of the Nominating Committee, for snagging Lorey for the new Board, along with all the other wonderful Board members. You've outdone yourselves this year!! (P.S. Sorry Chuck!!)

Anne: We would also like to thank **Melanie Johnson** for all her work on the 'Meet the Judges' event at the end of April. I understand it was well attended and very well organized.

Byrd: It really was. I have heard many positive comments from Leaguers, members of the public, and the judges themselves. We do a good public service with this unique event.

Anne: Another 'thank you' goes to **Kay Escarda** and **Carol Masterson** for organizing the crew who staffed the Aid Station at the Avenue of the Giants Marathon in early May. Byrd, you attended this year—how was it?

Byrd: I found it as enjoyable as ever. Of course, I was glad I was handing out drinks and fruit rather than running in the race!

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



2007 Rhododendron Parade: Members **Lenny, Kay, Peri and Dezi Escarda**, and **Amanda Windsor** representing the League while blasting classic rock and having a great time. Thank you, Mid-City Motor World!

**Welcome
New Member!**
Phillis Taborski



Presidents' Message Continued...

Anne: Well, I'm sure we have both often felt as though we were running a marathon this year! Since this is our last conversation as co-presidents of LWVHC, I think it's important that we tell everyone how much we appreciate all their help this year as we've struggled to balance our very busy lives.

Byrd: Absolutely. We could never have done it without everyone's help! We thank our 2006-2007 board members, and we wish the 2007-2008 Board every success.

Anne: On this final note, I want to thank the outgoing Board for their generous spa gift! I sure need it!!! Byrd, we need to set a date to begin our presidential retirement!

Byrd: You're right, Anne. Let's do it!

*-Anne and Byrd,
Co-Presidents*

'Meet Your Judges' Goes Swimmingly

The 'Meet Your Judges' forum on April 26 made for an enjoyable and information-packed evening. **Kay Escarda** served as the event greeter, and counted 60 people in the audience. **Superior Court Judges Watson, Miles, Wilson, Reinholtsen, Feeney** and **Commissioner Hinrichs** were present for the two-hour forum. Each gave a brief history of his or her legal career and when they were elected or appointed to the bench. Almost all of the judges were local kids, or had some part of their education in Humboldt County.

Dwight Clark, Executive Officer of the Superior Court, provided summary data on Humboldt County's Court, which has an annual budget of \$7,750,000. Court staff and officers answer 9,500 telephone calls and more than 62,000 emails! Their caseload includes 30% traffic, 27% criminal, 19% civil, and 24% family law cases. Of those cases, about 80 go to jury trial. Though criminal cases are a little less than a third of the court's caseload, they represent 75% of the cases that go to trial.

Susie Owsley forwarded approximately 40 audience questions to the judges via discussion leader **Nancy Kay**. The questions covered a variety of court-related subjects. Here's a sample:

Q—Is it possible to represent yourself successfully in Civil Court?

A—Judge Watson: Yes, with good guidance and direction from a paralegal. Equal access to justice is very important, regardless of one's circumstances.

Q—Why do criminal cases take so long? [10-35 days/felony, 3-5days/misdemeanor]

A—Judge Feeney: Because there is a lot of discovery. In the last year there have been 1083 felony cases in Humboldt County. Nine hundred and thirty six of those cases were resolved without going to trial.

Q—What about mediation in the Courts?

A—Judge Miles: In family law it is required by statute. It is mandatory.

A—Judge Feeney: In complex civil cases, mediation is invaluable.

Much appreciation goes to **Milt Boyd, Carol Johnson, Sarah Turner, PA WinterSun**, and **Jesse Reid** for helping facilitate the event, and to our Superior Court Justices for devoting an evening of their personal time to this forum.

We're thinking about having a different local city host 'Meet Your Judges' next year. If you have thoughts about the next "Judges" forum or would like to help, call me at 677-0147.

*-Melanie Johnson,
Citizen Education*

Voters Service

Just Another Beautiful Day in Paradise

That was the first Sunday in May at the Garden Club of America Grove on the Avenue of the Giants. The League staffed a Marathon aid station there for at least the fourteenth time.

The weather was perfect, the insects few, the runners plentiful and buff, and we dispensed only one Band-Aid. Our big banners caught the eye of a number of runners and they complimented our work as we praised their performance. We even managed a few choruses of the theme from "Chariots of Fire." A good time was had by all, etc., etc.

Three League members---**Sharolyn Hutton, Byrd Lochtie** and yours truly---were joined by four loyal Friends of the League for the third year running (!) **Tom Oliver, Laura Cunningham, Jayme Gonzales** and **Heather Heflin**. Thanks to everyone, and to our mascot, my dear mother, **Leah Mast**.

-Carol Masterson,
Voters Service Director

Voters Service Needs You!

There are still a number of time slots to be filled in our Fourth of July booths in Eureka and Arcata.

You know, contrary to popular belief, these events do not run themselves, but a mere two-hour investment of your time helps make light work for everyone involved. If you can spare that much of your holiday to help set up or take down a booth or help people register to vote, you'll win lots of patriot points and help the League as well.

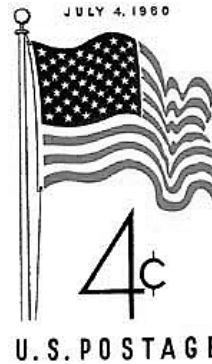
Come on out to the Arcata Plaza or Old Town Eureka and make democracy work!

Call **Carol Masterson** at 768-3118 if you can volunteer for a couple of hours on July 4.

-Carol Masterson,
Voters Service Director

Put In

Your



VOTE!

Catching Up with Kay

It has been an especially busy couple of months at the end of this League year, but before I begin I would like to sneak in a thank you to all the League members who sent cards and made donations in honor of Lenny and my 50th Wedding Anniversary. How sweet and how thoughtful you all were.

Rhododendron-festooned hats off to **Barbara Kelly, Rosemarie Falor-Lewis, Lorey Keele, Byrd Lochtie, Sharolyn Hutton, Amanda Windsor,** and **Lenny, Peri** and **Dezi Escarda** for help and the fun of participating in the Rhododendron Parade. Special thanks to **John Dalton** and **Victor Pyle** at **Mid City Motor World** for loaning us the new Solara convertible and to **John and Gerry Smeltzer** for providing the 1925 vintage Chevy for us. Our cars and League members spanned fifty-one years. We had a great time and League was again seen participating in our community.

I have a number of people to thank for pinch-hitting for me since I missed two major events. The first thank you goes to **Carol Masterson** for "ramrodding" the Avenue of the Giants Marathon. I heard that Carol and her able assistants did the usual "great job" and the League has received the \$150.00 check from the Avenue Director with her appreciation.

I'm told the Annual Meeting turned out well, thanks to those who pitched in and covered my job. Thanks to **Sarah Turner, Nancy Quintrell, Sharolyn Hutton** and **Judy Bennett** for carrying out the membership tasks. If you didn't attend the Annual Meeting and haven't paid your dues yet, I hope you will do that soon. I don't want to lose a single one of you this year. There is strength in numbers and if all you can do is read the newsletter and support us with your dues, please know that that is a valuable contribution. There are important things for the League to do in the coming year and we need you with us!

Our treasurer will be sending out renewal notices for the coming year which begins in July. Help her out and pay now so she doesn't have to mail 100+ notices. Our dues are still \$50 per year, \$75 for a dual membership (with one address). If you joined through National, you can renew with us and save \$5, but no matter how you join, may I borrow from Nike and say, "Just do it"!

Thanks to all our members for making our 50th year such a fun-filled and productive one.

-Kay Escarda,
Membership Chair

News from the National League

League Applauds Defeat of Discriminatory Voter ID Amendment

Washington, D.C. - League President Mary G. Wilson today made the following statement following the defeat of an amendment, introduced by Senator Mitch McConnell (R KY), that would have required all voters to obtain and show a government issued photo ID before exercising their constitutional right to vote at the polls.

“Fair and equitable access to voting is our most precious democratic right, and using political tricks to manipulate those rights has no place in the 21st century. We applaud the Senate’s rejection of the McConnell amendment, which would have created unfair barriers to voting nationwide.

“The League will continue to work against any Congressional actions that threaten the voting rights of all Americans, and particularly those of minorities, the elderly, and the poor.”

The League has long worked against photo ID requirements, which disproportionately stifle the voices of certain groups. This week, the League publicly urged Senators to oppose the McConnell amendment.

League Applauds Passage of Lobbying Reform Legislation

Washington, D.C. - League of Women Voters President Mary G. Wilson today made a statement following the passage of lobbying reform legislation, including a crucial provision that requires lobbyists to disclose the campaign contributions they arrange or deliver to members of Congress:

“The House has finally done the right thing, despite the arduous journey this legislation has endured the last several months. The leadership deserves credit for this victory for clean government.

“By requiring disclosure of the campaign contributions that lobbyists arrange and deliver to members of Congress, this legislation is a major step forward. For the first time, lobbyists will have to disclose campaign contributions they arrange and deliver to members of Congress.”

Observer Corps.

OBSERVER: A League member who regularly attends meetings of governmental bodies for the sole purpose of listening (not speaking) and reporting back to the League. (See LWVC Glossary of League “Lingo”.)

By observing at public board meetings and council meetings, League members can be part of the process to ensure meetings remain open and transparent, as well as help the League Board and others stay informed about the activities of the various agencies. If you are interested in being an observer, please contact Byrd Lochtie or Mona Daly at the League office 442-9252.

News from the State League

Rally Report

Dear Diary...

Five A.M. came earlier than usual as I started my journey to Bakersfield to represent the LWVHC at the “Rally in the Valley”. Note for those planning to attend future conventions—sleep before you go. The activities are non-stop from 7 in the morning until 11 at night. The enthusiasm is contagious, and you’ll find that sleep takes a back burner.

Caucuses offered during non-plenary and non-workshop hours included: The New Study Process, Public Education and Health Care Reform. The caucuses were conducted in a casual setting conducive to discussion and full participation.

Saturday started out at breakfast with a few minutes with our MTA Susan Eveleth. I must have turned 50 shades of red as our poem was presented during the Roll Call of local leagues. As usual, Humboldt County was unique and our poem (*see On a Roll Call, page 5*) received lots of attention.

The plenary session discussions centered on proposed changes to existing and updated positions. Some of the discussion sounded familiar as many of the same topics are recycled for each convention. **Elizabeth McNamara**, LWVUS Board Member, shared her presentation titled “360 Degree View of Membership”. Her ideas and enthusiasm sent us all home ready to invest in growth and visibility for our Local Leagues.

Debra Bowen, California Secretary of State, was the luncheon speaker. We heard about voting systems, aging poll workers and many ideas for positive change.

The afternoon session got really exciting when it was announced that LWVHC is the *winner of the 2006/2007 VOTER Award!* An excellent workshop on Health Care Reform rounded out the afternoon.

The banquet speaker **Dolores Huerta** was amazing. She is the co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America, and recipient of many awards. She shared interesting insights into current and future US immigration policies and the issues surrounding them, and brought us all out of our seats with her appeal to each of us to be politically involved and active in our communities.

Sunday morning brought more program debate and the convention resolutions. Unfortunately, to catch a flight home I had to leave before the new Board was officially elected.

Going to conventions always affirms my belief that even though we aren’t doing everything the same as everyone else, we are doing amazingly well at a time when Leagues everywhere are struggling to compete with other nonprofits for members, donations and volunteer time.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent our League.

-Mona Daly,
Convention Delegate

Board Briefs...

From the May Board meeting:

Daly reported that SB964 is intended to strengthen enforcement of the Brown Act. The Board voted to request the LWVC to analyze SB964 and inform us if there is a State position on it.

The Scholarship Revision Committee reported formatting and editing changes and, after review and discussion, the Board moved to accept the reformatted Scholarship Policy. In addition, Statement #8 of the Scholarship/Membership Development Funds now reads that each Board member may award a membership scholarship to a possible new member without the need for Board action. The Board voted to accept the revised Scholarship Disbursement Policy.

The board reduced the areas on the scholarship application requiring a response from three to five. The League also moved to adopt the scholarship award letter as revised. .

-Sharolyn Hutton, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

539 G Street, Suite 103, Eureka CA 95502
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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

On a Roll Call...

Finding our groove at fifty one years
Our League is still growing inspiring our peers
We're taking the time to remember our past
And using the wisdom to make our League last
Keeping the civil in dialog
Educating the public come sun, rain or fog
Poets we aren't - it's certain -
But we're still here - year after year
Making Democracy Work behind the Redwood Curtain
Greetings from the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County!

-Mona Daly, Convention Delegate

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.

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

JULY						
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				

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	

Calendar

- July 4 ☆ **Voter Service Booths** ☆
☆ Arcata and Eureka Street Fairs, 10 A.M.-6 P.M.
Call Carol Masterson at 768-3118 to volunteer
- July 27 Board Retreat—Get Acquainted Dinner
Sharolyn Hutton's Residence
Call for more information
- July 28 Board Retreat—Business Meeting
Lois Busey's Residence
Call for more information
- August No Events! Even this hard-working League takes a break. See you all in September at the Membership Brunch!

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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Editor: Amanda Windsor