



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

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August/September 2007

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Dear Diary...

July 1, 2007—I woke up this morning to the realization that I am President of the League—it seems like only yesterday that I was waking up feeling like a Past President.

The good news is that this time I know what I am doing. At least, I think it’s good news, or maybe I just think I know what I’m doing. Hmm...

Either way, the bad news is that I am only one President instead of two. Having no Co-President, it was a little quiet on the other end when I tried to start a dialogue. I knew then that I could never live up to the lively Presidents’ Messages that Anne and Byrd delivered last year, so I guess I will just have to resort to talking to all of you.

Like me, you are probably wondering what’s in store for our League this year. One of the most exciting things about our organization is that every year brings new, different and FUN opportunities to support democracy in Humboldt County, across the nation, and around the world. You’ll read about some of them in this VOTER. I encourage you to pick up the phone, open an e-mail, and volunteer. You won’t regret it.

The new League year got off to a great start on July 27 and 28, the annual retreat for the incoming board. What a dynamic board! A great mix of experience, enthusiasm and humor brought us through eight hours of planning, planning and more planning. Thank you to all of the board members for giving up a beautiful Saturday to take care of business and get us started in the right direction.



At the Board Retreat

Clockwise from bottom left: **Nancy Quintrell, Armeda Reitzel, Mona Daly, Helen Andrews, Carol Masterson, Melanie Johnson, Megan Vogel, Sharolyn Hutton, Lorey Keele, Lois Busey, Kay Escarda, Sarah Reid**

I am so excited to see some new faces on the League Board! Welcome to new members: **Nancy Quintrell, Meghan Vogel, Armeda Reitzel** and **Sarah Reid**. There are lots of familiar faces too on our not-so-small board of fifteen. Past Presidents **Byrd Lochtie, Carol Masterson, Helen Andrews, Lorey Keele, Kay Escarda** and **Judy Bennett** are there to lend their years of experience and great energy to the mix. Rounding out the board, are experienced and returning board members **Melanie Johnson, Amanda Windsor, Lois Busey** and **Sharolyn Hutton**. Thank you all for saying yes!

Here’s to the best League year ever—**starting with the Membership Brunch on September 15**. See you there!

Take care,

Mona Daly, President

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

Membership Brunch—Sept. 15

The League's Membership Brunch is just around the corner: Saturday, September 15. To encourage members to bring guests, we're offering a 50% discount. The cost for an individual member is \$10, but if you bring a guest your cost for the brunch drops to \$5, and your guests also get in for \$5 each. We're always looking for new members and new ideas, and the brunch is the perfect opportunity to introduce people to the League.

The program begins with an overview of League activities for the upcoming year. Our featured speaker this year is **Allan Katz**, executive director of the Community Health Alliance of Humboldt-Del Norte (CHAHD). Health care reform is a League priority, and Mr. Katz will be giving a presentation about the current health care concerns specific to our rural area.



Join us on the morning of Saturday, September 15 from 10:30 to 12:30. The brunch is being held at Christ Episcopal Church, at 15th and H streets, Eureka. It will be catered by CC Deli of Rio Dell. A door prize will be given to the person who brings the most guests. [Ed: In the case of a tie, the winner will be established via arm wrestling.]

As always, there is no charge if you're just attending the program portion of the meeting which begins at 11:30. Free coffee and tea will be served.

We highly encourage you to RSVP as early as possible for the brunch so that we can be adequately prepared. Please call **Kay Escarda**, 442-7495, by Monday, September 10. We hope to see lots of motivated new faces!

[Update: LWVHC President Mona Daly has vetoed the arm wrestling portion of the program. "It's just not appropriate. The League IS known for its strong and determined membership, but arm wrestling is simply not democratic." Ties will be decided by drawing.]

-Meghan Vogel,
Publicity Director

**Welcome
New Members!**

Charlene Cutler-Ploss

Jane Gagner

Claire & Eugene Perricelli

"California Speaks" on Health Care

On August 11, Humboldt State University was host to the state-wide, 'town hall'-style meeting: "California Speaks." With eight cities connected via satellite, this well-attended non-partisan program had over 350 people in attendance locally, including several League leaders and members. Over 3,700 people gathered state-wide to discuss the future of health care reform in California.

A number of citizens spoke, representing a variety of socio-economic and racial groups. **Governor Schwarzenegger** opened the day with a short address, and **Senate President pro Tem Don Perata** and **Senate Republican Leader Dick Ackerman** both spoke and were in attendance.

Participants were then divided into groups of ten and asked to discuss and vote electronically on a variety of subjects related to currently-proposed health care legislation.

S.B. 840 was not originally on the agenda for discussion, but the high level of interest from the participants—chants were started and signs held up—as well as **Governor Schwarzenegger's** change in stance the day before, resulted in a change of agenda, and the bill was added to the afternoon's discussions.

After an arduous day, a great deal of progress was made and several ideas presented. **Governor Schwarzenegger**, who had been observing via satellite link-up, responded to the group with a question regarding the public's willingness to pay for the suggested reforms. The attendees responded with an overwhelming positive, over 80% in support of paying!

Before the conclusion of the program, the primary facilitator asked the participants to continue to discuss these issues, to organize their own meeting groups, and to send letters and cards to their representatives, promoting self-efficacy within the political process.

For more information you can visit the "California Speaks" Web site at: www.CaliforniaSpeaks.org.

-Sarah Reid,
Natural Resources Director

Voter Service

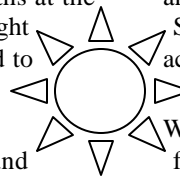
Are You Ready for Fall?



What a glorious Fourth it was for the League! More than twenty of us turned out to erect, staff, and take down our attractive voter registration booths at the Arcata and Eureka celebrations. Twenty-eight persons registered to vote, and many more stopped to compliment us on the work we do. And... two new members joined our fine organization!

Making it all happen that day were **Dave and Sharolyn Hutton, Karen Diemer, Deb and Dick Storre, Anne Hartline, Keith Kons, Melanie Johnson, Bev Post and Larry Womack, Hollie Klingel, Meghan Vogel, Carole Ziskin, Armeda Reitzel, Jackie Foote, Barbara Kelly, Donna Clark, Rosemarie Falor-Luis, Helen Hui, George and PA WinterSun**, and our chief elf, my dear friend **Debbie Visser**.

I think some of these people were meeting each other for the first time, and working at a booth always presents a good opportunity to become better acquainted. It's fun learning what brought each person to the League. Thank you, each and every one, for this wonderful contribution of your time, talents, and determination.



If you didn't get to participate in the Fourth fairs, or if you did and want more, The Big One is still ahead of us: the one and only North Country Fair on the Arcata Plaza on September 22 and 23. At our traditional booth location across from Hotel Arcata, the set-up begins at 8:30 Saturday morning and takedown is at 6:00 Sunday evening.

We'll have the latest election information and a candidate forum schedule and continue our informal public outreach, and watch the Samba Parade, and the All Species Parade, and watch the politicians on dunk tank duty, and listen to a lot of good music, not to mention enjoy the food and wonderful arts and crafts. What's not to love? I hope the guy with the banana python is back this year.

Call 768-3118 or write buffy7@suddenlink.net today to reserve your favorite time to be there.

The last street fair opportunity will be Fortuna's Apple Harvest Festival on October 6. Be one of the first to sign up! Free apples! We're probably going to do a couple of forums on KEET-TV this fall, ushering in a year of election activities that will be replete with Voter Service opportunities. Are you ready?

-Carol Masterson,
Voter Service Director

Finance-o-philes?

NEEDED: Three members to serve on the 2007-2008 Budget & Finance Committee. This committee will meet in early Spring to develop and submit to the Board the proposed 2008-2009 League operating budget. Your help on this committee is needed! Call 442-9252 to volunteer.

Education Aficionados?

Are you following what is happening with education in our county and across the country? Are you willing to review the materials that are coming in from LWVC and keep the Board up-to-date? Call 442-9252 to help.

Participate in the Immigration Study

LWVUS has recently launched a two-year Immigration Study in an effort to help communities understand the effects of immigration at the local, state, and federal level.

As part of this project, local League members and leaders will explore the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society.

The study kits will be out in early September, and I hope to have a committee together by the end of August. Please contact **Helen Andrews** to join the committee, or to otherwise participate in this important and timely project. Send an e-mail to heland@aol.com or call 441-9148 evenings after 5:30, Monday through Friday.

Present the Pros and Cons

Help is needed for the Pros and Cons presentations for the 2007/2008 elections. What are the propositions? I don't know. What are the presentation dates? I don't know that either. What I DO know is that Pros and Cons presentations are an important part of our League's Voter Service/Citizen Education Program. Voters know the League will present accurate information about the issues in an unbiased, non-threatening forum.

We will be using *In Depth*, the League's published analysis of ballot measures, as a basis for our presentations. It provides a thorough explanation of each proposition and includes the main arguments for and against the issues. A copy of *In Depth* will be distributed to our League office approximately six weeks before the election; it will also be available on-line. You will have an opportunity to choose those proposition(s) that interest you.

Call me at 677-0147 to become a Pros and Cons presenter. Your participation is much appreciated. Thank you.

-Melanie Johnson,
Citizen Education

News from the National League

A Safer, More Compassionate World

The League of Women Voters [U.S.] will host *A Safer, More Compassionate World* Forums with funding from Our Voices Together. These forums will:

Explore comprehensive approaches to counterterrorism beyond governmental policies and actions.

Highlight ways citizens can engage constructively in what the 9/11 Commission termed the "Agenda of Opportunity" (education, employment, and the possibility for a brighter tomorrow) and contribute, person-to-person, to help build a future without the threat of terrorism.

Encourage a less fearful, more informed, nonpartisan public discussion about the predominant threat to the security of the United States.

Address actions citizens can take to more effectively minimize this threat.

The series will launch August 30, 2007, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, with international journalists. This series is the continuation of the highly successful *Safer, More Compassionate World* Forums on college campuses and marks the 5th anniversary of 9/11.

News from the State League

L.A. County To Take Over City Election

With the LWVC's urging, the state Legislature voted to have Los Angeles County election officials take over the recall election targeting four City Council members in the City of Lynwood.

The unanimous vote for A.B. 1587 (De La Torre) by the Senate and Assembly came after a Superior Court judge's ruling that the election will take place Sept. 25, 2007. This swift action was taken because the Lynwood City Council had resisted the recall election.

The LWVC actively supported the legislative bill and it was signed by the governor, giving the registrar-recorder authority over Lynwood's recall election.

In Memory of Polly O. Smith

Longtime LWVC member, donor and friend, Polly O. Smith passed away on July 28, 2007. Polly was an active and dedicated League of Women Voters of California advocate for environmental policies and water issues.

At her family's request, donations in Polly's honor will be accepted by the LWVC at 801 12th Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814. To designate your gift, please write Polly O. Smith's name in the memo area of your check. Memorial gifts may also be made in Polly Smith's honor to Save the Bay and the Environmental Forum of Marin.

87 Years of Fighting for Political Equality
League of Women Voters Marks Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

Washington, D.C.—This August 26 marks the 87th anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. While American women now comprise more than half of our nation's voting age population, according to the League of Women Voters, the struggle to become full participants in the political life of the country has yet to be fully realized.

"This anniversary of the 19th amendment, Women's Equality Day, provides us with an opportunity to reflect with pride on the progress made on voting rights in the past 87 years," said Mary G. Wilson, national League president.

"This year, we've witnessed a number of remarkable milestones for women. For the first time, a female has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, and a major contender for the 2008 Presidential election is a woman.

"However, these achievements do not mark the end of our journey. In communities across the country, citizens still lack real representation by their elected officials and the policies they pass. It is only with the continued work of citizens and leaders, of all backgrounds, that this can change."

The League's current and recent projects include the launch of a major voter education website, www.VOTE411.org, lobbying against the disenfranchisement of eligible voters, a campaign to end "taxation without representation" for D.C. citizens by granting DC a voting representative, and continuing voter registration drives nationwide.

"It is crucial that we continue to engage more citizens in the democratic process, on every level. Citizens volunteering, educating, lobbying; that's absolutely necessary to democracy, and we need to see more of it," Wilson said.

"Today is a time to celebrate the progress achieved by active citizens over the past eight decades, but it is also a time to look to what still needs to be done to make democracy work for all Americans. The League of Women Voters will continue to be the place where hands-on work leads to a better democracy for all."



Thank You!

The League would like to acknowledge **Kathryn Corbett** for her donation to the HAF-LWVHC Education Fund.

Thank you Kathryn!!



Board Briefs...

From the June Board meeting:

Bear River Tribal Council requested that the League conduct another special election. The Board agreed by consensus to assist with the election.

LWVHC member Carolyn Otis is working with Lindsay McWilliams on an Election Dept. Training Video for poll workers.

Manila Public Services requested that the LWVHC sponsor a public forum about fluoridation at the Manila Community Center. No action was taken at this time.

From the Board Retreat:

The Board approved the following board member appointments: Lois Busey, Melanie Johnson, Sarah Reid and Helen Andrews as Directors for a one-year term.

Set the 1st Monday of each month for board meetings, except September, which is changed to Tuesday the 4th.

A \$1,000 expenditure was requested and approved to plan and organize the League office.

Your Board will offer two-hour workshops for the general membership on the following topics: LWVHC Board Member Basics, Voter Service, Moderator Training, Understanding Program Planning and How To Take Action, and How To Run a League Meeting.

Your Board formed a committee to develop a policy regarding monetary gift giving by the LWVHC board.

Your Bylaws Committee will review student memberships and dues in consideration of the LWVC policy.

-Lorey Keele, 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 2007-2008

Your League Board

- President Mona Daly
Past President Byrd Lochtie
Vice-President Sharolyn Hutton
Secretary Lorey Keele
Treasurer Judy Bennett
Director Lois Busey
Director Kay Escarda
Director Melanie Johnson
Director Carol Masterson
Director Nancy Quintrell
Director Sarah Reid
Director Armeda Reitzel
Director Meghan Vogel
Director Amanda Windsor

- Candidate & Issues Forums Carol Masterson
Citizen Education Melanie Johnson
Financial Development Director Lois Busey
Government
Historian Anne Hartline
Immigration Study Chair Helen Andrews
LWVHC Ed-Fund Kathryn Corbett
Membership Kay Escarda, Nancy Quintrell
Natural Resources Sarah Reid
Nominating Committee Chair Nancy Kay
Poll Workers Coordinator Carolyn Otis
Program Director Sharolyn Hutton
Publications Lorey Keele
Publicity Director Meghan Vogel
Access Humboldt Rep.
Social Policy
State of the Community Maggie Fleming, Byrd Lochtie
VOTER Publication Amanda Windsor
VOTER Circulation Carolyn Otis
Voter Service Director Carol Masterson
Webmaster Amanda Windsor

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 - (707) 444-9252

| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | |
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| OCTOBER | | | | | | |
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| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

Calendar

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| September 4 | Board Meeting, 6-8 P.M. 539 G Street, Suite 106, Eureka |
| September 15 | ★ LWVHC Membership Brunch , 10:30-12:30 Christ Episcopal Church ★ 15th & H Streets, Eureka |
| September 22-23 | League Booth, North Country Fair On the Plaza, Arcata <u>Call Carol at 768-3118 to volunteer!</u> |
| October 1 | Board Meeting, 6-8 P.M. 539 G Street, Suite 106, Eureka |
| October 6 | League Booth, Apple Harvest Festival Main Street, Fortuna |
| October 18 | General Membership Meeting: Immigration Study 6-8 P.M.—Location to be announced |
| October 22 | Last day to register to vote to participate in the November 6 election. |

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 2007-2008

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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Eureka, CA 95502

Editor: Amanda Windsor