



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 50 No. 2

February 2008

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President's Message

When I began writing this message as your new president, I struggled with the best way to introduce myself and also highlight League activities. After drafting several beginnings, I suddenly knew what I wanted to share with you and found this Will Rogers quote: "If you want to be successful, it's just this simple. Know what you are doing. Love what you are doing. And believe in what you are doing."

I believe wholeheartedly in the mission of the League of Women Voters and I am honored to serve as president of an organization that has been trusted since its inception in 1920 to provide accurate election information to citizens. I appreciate the League's local, state and national studies, undertaken to increase understanding of major public policy issues. I love participating in all the events the League uses to inform the public, whether it be moderating a candidate forum, registering voters, presenting in schools, or responding to phone messages from citizens seeking assistance.

Rogers also said, "Don't let yesterday use up too much of today." The up-and-coming elections in February, June and November will keep us busy and focused. Recent events include a successful Voter Information Day under the leadership of citizen education chair **Melanie Johnson** and a Measure B forum arranged by Voter Service Chair **Carol Masterson** at the Manila Community Center. In addition, Study Chair **Helen Andrews** has submitted to LWVUS our input on the Immigration Study.

In preparation for the annual meeting, the nominating committee has sent letters to potential office holders while the finance committee is meeting to determine the budget for the coming year. The State of the Community Luncheon committee has selected its honorees and is finalizing its preparations and the program planning meeting has completed its task. There will be opportunities for members to speak about

Save the Date!!

2008 State of the Community

☆ Luncheon ☆

The 17th Annual State of the Community Luncheon will be held on **Friday, April 18, 2008** at the Adorni Center in Eureka. ☆

Please join the League of Women Voters for another successful event honoring individuals and/or groups for their extraordinary contributions to our community.

the League at Humboldt State University and College of the Redwoods and to other organizations in our communities.

There are many ways to serve in the League and you are needed. Members are reminded that in a year that has seen the Multiple Assistance Center struggling, and a loss of housing for single men and women there, we are in need of a Social Policy Chair. In addition, we need only look at the many issues facing our educational institutions and other government agencies to see how beneficial an active Observer Corps would be. Also, there will be many one-time jobs and committee openings in the coming year, so please consider how you can best serve.

Our new voice mail system is active and there have been many messages from people seeking information. I have been impressed with how many citizens want to have an honest discussion about political issues and how much they just need to talk. These callers have brought home to me that many citizens in Humboldt County can't easily leave their homes and have limited or no access to television or the internet, yet they care enough about the democratic process to call the League of Women Voters. Thank goodness we're here! **Vote February 5!!**

As always,

Sharolyn Hutton
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

Results of the Immigration Study

The Board approved the consensus report on the National Immigration Study at the board meeting on January 7, 2008. The approved study was transmitted to LWVUS and we will receive the final results in late spring of this year. The national League will develop a position paper for immigration from the two-year study and consensus process, a position that the League can take action on.

On November 15 our League reviewed the two consensus questions proposed by the study and reached consensus on both questions. The results are as follows:

Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by the states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economics, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

The consensus participants also asked that the following comments be included in our report:

Improved, effective, expeditious and efficient systems need to be implemented, especially for those immigrants already living in the United States.

Employers need to provide living wages to all employees.

Visas for cultural exchanges and performers need to be expedited.

Thank you to all who participated in this study.

-Helen Andrews,
Immigration Study Chair



Voter Information Day

Approximately 70 people attended Voter Information Day. Dozens of general and specific questions about voting, elections, and issues were asked and answered, and a variety of printed and recorded materials were taken home to study. There are many resources available to help voters understand the election process and their ballot. It was gratifying to election professionals and League volunteers alike to be able to get the word out about these resources.

From planning to presentation the event was informative and enjoyable. Assistance from local radio and newspapers was excellent, including a half-hour interview on KHUM on January 9. Thanks also go out for the enthusiastic support from community members **Ronda Wittenberg** of the Humboldt County Library, **Judi Hedgpeth** of the Humboldt Literacy Project (and new LWVHC member), and **Carolyn Crnich** of the Humboldt County Elections Office.

Highlights of the day:

SmartVoter.org orientation on the "big screen" followed by opportunity for individuals to navigate for themselves with the help of LWV members;

Voting Machine demonstrations and hands-on practice sessions for anybody who wanted to try the E-Slate machine. Almost everybody did!

Propositions 91, 92 and 93 Pros & Cons reviews and time to sit down with LWV experts for in-depth insights.

Room arranging and decorating visionaries applied their skills to the room the night before the event, and set the stage for a comfortable and convenient wander through the displays, and the demonstration and discussion areas.

Visitors were greeted by **Nancy and Don Quintrell** and seemed grateful for a cookie and a warm welcome (it was cold outside). Presenters **Sharolyn Hutton, Armeda Reitzel, Beth Matsumoto, Gillian Evans, Nancy Nieboer, and Carolyn Crnich** all wowed the crowd with their technological wonders and new things to think about.

Registering voters (five new and nine returning) and new LWVHC members (two) were **Byrd Lochtie, Carol Masterson**, and me. Making important radio contacts behind the scene were **Kay Escarda and Sarah Reid**. Almost everyone wore several hats for this event. Thanks to everyone for all the ways you helped.

-Melanie Johnson,
Citizen Education

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

News from the LWVC

The League Needs You to Make Redistricting Reform Happen!

We're off and running on our campaign to effect fair and open redistricting reform in California. In order to get the California Voters FIRST initiative on the ballot, we need a million signatures. The League has pledged to do its part. So we're calling all League members to rally to the cause and help us get those signatures.

How? First, every member will receive a petition with three signature spaces. Sign it yourself, get two more signatures from your family, friends or colleagues, and send it in. It's easy! Second, volunteer to take more petitions and get signatures at meetings, rallies, parties, supermarkets, movie lines, wherever you go.

We'll be working with your League, Inter League Organization, or County Council to make it happen.

New League Formed in Placer County

A new local League has formed to serve the residents of Placer County, just north of Sacramento. Over 80 people attended the first Placer County League of Women Voters open meeting on January 5, 2008 at the Maidu Community Center. Also in attendance were Roseville Mayor Jim Gray and the new LWV Placer County Board of Directors.

The board includes President Kathy Souza, Vice Presidents Margie Spalding and Betty Green-Heffern, Treasurer Candace Massey, Secretary Judy Marston, Membership Director Daphne Lake, Program Director Alexis Winter, Finance Director Karen Flemming, Newsletter Directors Jean and Sheldon Ebenholz and Voter Service Director Bernedette O'Keefe.

The next general meeting will be held at Sierra College on March 12, 2008, with guest speaker Placer County Clerk-Recorder, Jim McCauley. For more information contact President Kathy Souza at 916-791-5187.

Reproductive Freedom Day

The California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom is hosting Reproductive Freedom Day on March 25, 2008 at the Sacramento Convention Center from 8 A.M to 4 P.M. Attend the event to learn more about current reproductive health and justice issues, meet other activists from around the state, and tell legislators why reproductive rights are important to your community. Your voice matters.

Visit the CCRF Web site for more information and to register. You may also call 510-451-3381. Early bird registration ends February 1, 2008.

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P.O. Box 3219
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Who's Who in Your League 2007-2008

Your League Board

- President..... Sharolyn Hutton
Vice President.....
Past PresidentByrd Lochtie
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..... Amanda Windsor

- Candidate & Issues Forums.... Carol Masterson
Citizen Education.....Melanie Johnson
Financial Development DirectorLois Busey
Government.....
Historian..... Anne Hartline
Immigration Study Chair..... Helen Andrews
LWVHC Ed-FundKathryn 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.....
Access Humboldt Rep. Helen Andrews
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!

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

539 G Street, Suite 103, Eureka CA 95502 - (707) 444-9252

www.lwvhc.org - vote@lwvhc.org

FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Calendar

February 4 **Board Meeting**, 6-8 P.M.
1906 Mesa Avenue, Eureka

February 5 **ELECTION DAY** - Vote!! ☆

March 3 **Board Meeting**, 6-8 P.M.
1906 Mesa Avenue, 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 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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Editor: Amanda Windsor