



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 50 No. 9

November 2008

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President's Message

November brings election day, Thanksgiving, falling leaves, a return to standard time, Veterans Day, and the conclusion of a very long political season. I am thankful that the LWVHC has many members who have been so engaged in 'making democracy work' for the past weeks and months. League members have registered voters, answered a multitude of questions from community members, and made it possible for citizens to have unbiased election information. In a recent phone call to LWVHC, a 98-year old resident of Crescent City said, "I only trust the League to give me correct information about the propositions on the ballot. Could you send me what you have?" We could and we did. This is but one example of the importance of the League.

I am very thankful for the wisdom of our Board. Kudos to: Voter Service Director **Carol Masterson**, who arranged for the eight KEET-TV candidate forums, as well as those held elsewhere; to Citizen Education Chair **Willa Mauro**, who arranged for registration tables at various agencies, as well as informative presentations to different groups and Voter Information Night; Secretary **Lorey Keele**, who insured that we had *Pros & Cons* and *Easy Voter Guides* to distribute; Hospitality Chair **Nancy Quintrell**, who provided refreshments at Voter Information Night; Government Chair **Helen Andrews**, who, after a last minute request from the community, researched two local measures on which no consensus was reached; Vice President **Sarah Reid**, and Publicity Chair **Beth Matsumoto**, who made sure our events and positions were on the air, in newspapers, and on-line; VOTER Editor, **Amanda Windsor**, who, as always, prepared an interesting, fact-filled issue that informed members; Treasurer **Judy Bennett** who, though on a long road trip, kept in



President Sharolyn Hutton explains Proposition 11 to the interested voters that attended the League's Pros & Cons presentation on October 16.

touch and provided encouragement; and to Past President **Byrd Lochtie**, who coordinated the Access Humboldt board election.

Thanks also are due to non-Board League members: **Carolyn Otis**, who every month makes sure the VOTER is mailed to members requesting the paper version, and also that members received copies of *Pros & Cons* in October, and to Webmaster, **Jesse Reid**, who updated lwvhc.org so the public as well as members find election information as well as watch the KEET-TV candidate forums on-line. In addition, I want to thank the State of the Community Luncheon Committee which has already published the nomination form for honoree suggestions.

Finally, thank you to those family members and friends who have supported us in our mission during this very busy time.

Happy Thanksgiving,

*Sharolyn Hutton,
President*

Our Mission Statement...

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!

Membership News

Brunch Appreciation

If you missed this year's Annual Membership Brunch, you missed a great time! **Linda Craig**, LWVC Advocacy Chair, was kind enough to come all the way up here to speak to us about Proposition 11 and redistricting in California. We had just under 60 folks in attendance and roughly half of those were potential members. We had a great response from those in attendance and several people signed up on the spot with a few sending their information on to us later.

A new element this year was a set of informational tables that brunch attendees could peruse and explore. I want to thank our table tenders for putting together the displays and answering the plethora of questions presented: **Anne Hartline** for doing the history table, **Jessemyn Reid** and **Amanda Windsor** for the technology and media table, **Carol Masterson** and **Willa Mauro** for the Voter Services and Citizen Education Table, **Helen Andrews** and **Kay Escarda** for the Advocacy and Action table, **Carolyn Otis** for the polling places table, and **Maggie Flemming** for the State of the Community Luncheon table.

Thank you to **Lois Busey**, **Elizabeth Matsumoto**, and **Nancy Kay** for being the friendly face of the LWVHC and greeting everyone at the door. Also, thank you to **Nancy Quintrell** for doing all of the work with the caterer, CC Market in Rio Dell, and for the lovely table decorations. Lastly, I would like to thank our ever-present and cheerful

president, **Sharolyn Hutton**, for opening her home to our out-of-town guests and for performing the Mistress of Ceremony duties. We appreciate all of our volunteers and everyone who helps to make events like this possible.

Don't forget that we are still looking for people who are interested in reviewing our positions with regard to elder and mental health issues, as well as for people who want to work on natural resources and social policy. If you are interested in working for any of these areas or if you have a project in mind, please contact me at hobosarah@gmail.com. As I always say, no matter what you are interested in or enjoy doing, we can find a job for you with the League!

-Sarah Reid,
Vice President

Thank You!

Kathryn Corbett for the donation of \$25.00 to the Education Fund in honor of **Carol Ann Masterson**.

SOCL Update

The State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL) Committee kicked off this year's event planning over delicious soups made by our gracious meeting hostess, **Kay Escarda**. With less than six months until the luncheon, which is scheduled for Friday, April 3, 2009, the committee is looking forward to another successful event.

If you haven't submitted your nomination for the Civic Contribution Award, you still have time, but you should act fast as December 1 is the deadline.

If you missed the nomination form in last month's VOTER, it is always available on the LWVHC website, www.lwvhc.org. Please mail, email, or fax your choice for this year's SOCL now!

-Beth Matsumoto,
Publicity Chair

Citizen Education

Pros & Cons

The October general membership meeting was held on October 16 at the Humboldt County Library in Eureka. The theme was the *Pros & Cons* of the propositions on the November ballot. Seven of the twelve propositions were discussed for the attendees.

Thank you to participants **Helen Hui**, **Barbara Kelly**, **Amanda Gutwirth**, **Alan Dillingham**, **Kay Escarda**, **Sharolyn Hutton**, and **Willa Mauro** who helped educate voters about the propositions that will be put to the vote on November 4. Refreshments were provided by **Nancy Quintrell**. The program was videotaped by **Jesse Reid** and **Sarah Reid** and was submitted to Access Humboldt for later broadcast.

-Willa Mauro,
Citizen Education Chair

Vote with the League

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

NOVEMBER 4, 2008

**League of Women Voters of Humboldt County
www.lwvhc.org**

In our Action/Advocacy role, the League of Women Voters is nonpartisan; we use our positions to advocate for, or against, particular policies in the public interest, but we never take positions on candidates or political parties.

The League only take stands on measures when we have studied the issue and our membership has reached agreement on the policies and positions to support. Here are our recommendations for your vote on the propositions.

‘Vote with the League’ on November 4.

YES on Prop 1A	Safe, Reliable, High Speed Passenger Train Bond Act
YES on Prop 3	Children’s Hospital Bond Act
NO on Prop 4	Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy
YES on Prop 5	Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation
NO on Prop 6	Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws
NO on Prop 7	Renewable Energy Generation
NO on Prop 8	Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry
NO on Prop 9	Criminal Justice System. Victims’ Rights. Parole
NO on Prop 10	Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy. Bonds
YES on Prop 11	Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST Act

Because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 2, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, and Proposition 12, Veterans’ Bond Act of 2008, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

For more information, visit our website at www.lwvhc.org and click on: SmartVoter.org – Humboldt.

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. Contact the League at (707) 444-9252 or by email: vote@lwvhc.org.

News from the LWVC

Governor Once Again Vetoes Single Payer Health Care

No, it's not déjà vu. For the second time, the Legislature passed S.B. 840 (Kuehl), the single payer health care bill, and on September 30 the Governor once again vetoed it, dashing hopes that affordable health insurance for all Californians would be achieved in this legislative session.

Although Senator Sheila Kuehl will be termed out of office this year, she has announced that Assembly Member Mark Leno will reintroduce the legislation after his expected election to the state Senate in November. When the bill is reintroduced, the LWVC will redouble our efforts to educate the public and to build support for the measure—until we finally win. Check our Web site for the latest news, including Senator Kuehl's statement about the veto.

LWVC Partners with PPIC on 'Today's Choices, Tomorrow's Changes' Distribution

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) recently released *Today's Choices, Tomorrow's Changes*. This accessible, to-the-point publication reviews the growing challenges facing California in education, infrastructure, the environment, the state budget, and governance. It shows that the choices voters make now—both on the issues and on the candidates for California offices—will impact the effectiveness of the major policy changes needed to address those challenges. And it provides the information voters need to make informed choices about the future of our state.

Members and friends of the League of Women Voters of California will be receiving a complimentary copy of *Today's Choices, Tomorrow's Changes* in the mail soon. The League encourages everyone to read this publication and share it with others. For more information on the PPIC visit them online. .

Prop 11 Campaign Enters Home Stretch

With just 30 days until Election Day, the campaign to pass Proposition 11 is entering the home stretch, and the League is playing a leading role.

League speakers throughout the state are reaching out to groups in their communities to explain the measure. Newspapers across the state have been endorsing Proposition 11 with many noting the League's support.

You can join the final push by writing letters to your local newspapers, posting on blogs, and talking to your friends and neighbors. We need every vote, so use the materials provided by the League and the campaign to spread the word.. .

News from the LWVUS

It Is Time to Rise above Partisan Politics

League of Women Voters Urges People to Vote

Washington D.C.—"It is time for politicians, advocates and the media to stop attacking our nation's election process and start encouraging people to go to the polls," Mary G. Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, said. "Our process may not be perfect, but people all over the country – election officials, grassroots political workers and ordinary citizens – are doing the best they can to ensure that all Americans can participate in a fair election this fall.

"We are 15 days away from Election Day. It is time to rise above partisan politics and ensure that every eligible voter participates in this election -- by going to the polls, casting an absentee ballot or participating in early voting," she said.

"This election is too important for anyone to feel they must stand on the sidelines because harbingers of doom who have a vested interest in attacking our election system continue to barrage voters with daily doses of fear about our electoral process. Intimidation tactics such as those that have been used recently in an effort to discredit the third party voter registration efforts of ACORN have no place in the American political process," Wilson stated.

With respect to this specific scare tactic, Wilson noted that according to the Bureau of the Census approximately 8.5 percent of all new voter registrants were registered by "third party" organizations in 2004, the last year for which statistics are available. Such registration has been even more important in reaching prospective African-American, Hispanic, and low income voters. "The facts clearly show that voter registration efforts by "third party registrants" are key to building a more representative democracy," she said.

Long before the term "third party registration" was coined, the League was working to assure that EVERY voter, regardless of background, has fair access to voter registration. "It is a testament to the good work of the voting rights community that there is an increased energy, and a rise in new voter registrations, this election year," Wilson said. "I encourage every eligible voter in the United States to take the one step that will show the world that Americans stand firmly against the political fear mongers who are the real threat to our democracy: Stand firm by exercising your right to vote."



Board Briefs...

From the October Board Meeting:

- ★ **Byrd Lochtie** will register new citizens to vote at the Newcomer Center.
- ★ **Helen Andrews**, LWVHC Government Director, will investigate Eureka's measures D and E and make recommendations accordingly.
- ★ Funds were approved to videotape the *Pros & Cons* presentation at the county library for a cost of between \$350-650.
- ★ A display ad will be placed with our positions in the *El Herald* newspaper.
- ★ The State of the Community Luncheon Committee will mail out requests for nominees along with a copy of the *Pros & Cons* to each member of the League.

-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 vote@lwvhc.org

Who's Who in Your League 2007-2008

Your League Board

- President**.....Sharolyn Hutton
- Vice President**..... Sarah Reid
- Past President**..... Byrd Lochtie
- Secretary**.....Lorey Keele
- Treasurer**.....Judy Bennett
- Director**.....Helen Andrews
- Director**.....Carol Masterson
- Director**..... Beth Matsumoto
- Director**..... Willa Mauro
- Director**..... Nancy Quintrell
- Director**..... Amanda Windsor

- Candidate Forums**.....Carol Masterson
- Citizen Education**..... Willa Mauro
- Financial Development Director**.....Nancy Kay
- Government**.....Helen Andrews
- Historian**.....Carole Ziskin
- Membership**.....Sarah Reid, Nancy Quintrell
- Natural Resources**.....
- Nominating Committee Chair**..... Kay Escarda
- Poll Workers Coordinator**..... Carolyn Otis
- Program Director**..... Sarah Reid
- Publications**.....Lorey Keele
- Publicity Director**..... Beth Matsumoto
- Access Humboldt Rep.**.....Helen Andrews
- Social Policy**.....
- State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL)
Committee Chairs**.....Maggie Fleming
..... Byrd Lochtie
- SOCL Committee Liaison**..... Beth Matsumoto
- VOTER Publication**..... Amanda Windsor
- VOTER Circulation**..... Carolyn Otis
- Voter Service Director**..... Carol Masterson
- Webmaster**..... 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!

Smartvoter.org



The place for you if you are looking for:

- ★ Nonpartisan election information
- ★ How to Register to Vote
- ★ Information about the voting process
- ★ Your ballot issues
- ★ Your polling place

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 a 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 Membership Development 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

www.lwvhc.org - vote@lwvhc.org

Calendar

NOVEMBER						
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						

DECEMBER						
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			

November 3 Board Meeting, 6-8 P.M.,
1906 Mesa Avenue, Eureka

November 4 ☆ Election Day! VOTE

November 20 **General Meeting Cancelled! See
you next time.**

December 8 Board Meeting, 6-8 P.M.,
1906 Mesa Avenue, Eureka

January 22 Program Planning Meeting

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 2008-2009

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

November 2008

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P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

Editor: Amanda Windsor