



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 51 No. 1

February 2009

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## President's Message

I am writing this just prior to the inauguration of our 44th president, **Barack Obama**. What an exciting time to be an American and to be a member of the League of Women Voters.

Just as a new administration in Washington, D.C. is likely to bring changes to our country, we in the LWVHC make changes to our bylaws and positions at our annual meeting and in the general membership meetings. This month and next, we will meet to fulfill the directives from last May's annual meeting. The work involved in two elections kept us from doing this earlier. In February, we will review references to 'rail' in our Transportation Position and 'elder issues' in all LWVHC Positions.

Plan to join with other League members for a luncheon meeting on Saturday, February 28 from 12-3 P.M. at the Area 1 Agency on Aging, 434 7th Street, Eureka. Sandwiches and beverages will be available, and members may bring a salad or dessert to share, if they wish. We will divide into two groups, with each group reviewing one of the position topics.

In March, the general meeting will focus on the connection between affordable housing and mental health. These are the two LWVHC Action topics approved last year and about which we need to be well-informed in order to take appropriate action. Look for details in the March VOTER.

The League of Women Voters of California is also busy reviewing and revising. In February, I will work as a member of the LWVC bylaws committee which will develop recommendations to present to local Leagues by April 14 and then to the delegates at the state convention in May.

Elections may be over, but the League continues its mission! See you Feb. 28th!

Sincerely,

Sharolyn Hutton,  
President

## Save the Date!!

### 2009 State of the Community

### ☆ Luncheon ☆

The 18th Annual State of the Community Luncheon will be held on **Friday, April 3, 2009** at the Adorni Center in Eureka. ☆

## Poll Worker Donations

As I walked home from downtown Arcata, the thought entered my mind that my poll worker stipend check from the county should be arriving soon.

I spent a long and intense November 4 working at the Jolly Giant Commons polling site at HSU. Several hundred students voted that day, many of them for the first time. I love working at the polls and have done so each election for the past eight years.

After each election, when my check arrives, I donate my salary to the LWVHC. Many other League members do the same. To me it is a win-win situation. The voters win, the poll worker wins, and the LWVHC wins. These donations are an important part of the League budget. Thank you to all the League members who donate their salary to the League. As it turned out—much to my delight—my intuition was right on, and the check was waiting for me in the mailbox.

-Carolyn Otis,

VOTER Circulation Director

## Thanks so Much!

**Byrd Lochtie, Nancy Kay, Carolyn Otis, Rudy Ramp and Deborah Storre** worked the polls in November and forwarded their earnings to the League.

## 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

### *New Members, New Knowledge*

Sometimes we forget that not everyone knows what we know. Now, that's not a statement of my brilliance, but rather my longevity and various jobs in the League. My job as treasurer involves keeping the League membership roster up-to-date for LWVUS. This is done online, and it's not a difficult task, but it has taught me a few things that not all Leaguers may know.

The first is that each one of us has been assigned a number by the national League, and that is our number forever. If you move and transfer to another League, make sure you tell their membership director that you were a League member somewhere else and have a number. Each of us should have just one number.

Another tidbit is that joining the League of Women Voters at any level makes you a member at all three levels.

Recently we have gained some new members: **Lorinda Dengler, Susan Hansen, Denise Jones, Kathleen McClain** and **Doris Timm**. These people all became members of our local League and the League of Women Voters California because they contributed to LWVUS. We are grateful for their generosity.

We welcome these nationally recruited members and hope to see them at our local events.

We also have another new member: **Lori Taketa**, who has joined locally as a family member with **Sean McLaughlin**. Lori, welcome to our League and to the state and national Leagues.

One last bit of League knowledge is about Honorary members. If one is a member for 50 continuous years, she/he receives honorary membership. This means membership in all three levels of League for the remainder of your life without any further dues payments. It's a way for the League to say thank you for all those years of service.

So, to all our members, new and seasoned, come and participate and you will make the most of your League memberships.

Judy Bennett,  
Treasurer



## News from the LWVUS

### *The League Hails New Era of Transparency*

#### *Obama Signs Presidential Memos for Government Transparency, Openness*

**Washington D.C.**—"The League of Women Voters today applauded President Obama's bold steps toward creating a more open and transparent federal government on his first day in office.

"To make a commitment to transparency on day one demonstrates that the Obama Administration is prepared to improve the way Washington works for all Americans," said **Mary G. Wilson**, League of Women Voters President.

"Given the gravity of the issues facing our nation, the League is encouraged by the administration's strong recognition of the need to increase public access to the governmental decisions and policies that affect all Americans," Wilson stated.

"The two memos that President Obama signed about development of an Open Government Directive and changing the way the federal government interprets the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are significant first steps," said Wilson. "The League and other good government groups have been calling for just these kinds of actions for several years now."

## News from the LWVC

### *The Budget Fiasco Gets Worse*

Difficult as it may be to realize, the budget situation has grown worse. Find out everything you need to know about the situation and League action on our Web site at the California budget page. We're posting news about our recent participation in a press conference and new articles about the League's take on the proposals that you can use as background to understand the issues. Watch for the latest on LWVC News (sign up at the [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org)) and be ready to act when the LWVC calls for grassroots advocacy.

### *Challenging Prop 8: LWVC Files Amicus Brief*

The League of Women Voters of California filed an amicus curiae ("friend of the court") brief with the California Supreme Court in the case of City and County of San Francisco, et al. v. Horton, which challenges the validity of Proposition 8, which we opposed. The LWVC board approved filing of the amicus brief at its January 11 meeting. Proposition 8, passed by the voters last November, provides that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California, thus eliminating the right of same-sex couples to marry.

**Board Briefs...**

**From the December Board Meeting:**

- ☆ Your Board agreed to donate \$100 to Girls State.
- ☆ MOU's for Videographer **Jessemyn Reid** and Citizen's Guide to County Government Coordinator **Amanda Windsor** were revised and agreed upon.
- ☆ **Carol Masterson** appointed **Judy Bennett** and **Sharolyn Hutton** to the LWVHC Education Fund Committee.
- ☆ Your Board agreed to donate \$100 to the LWVC for Smart Voter services in honor of **Trudell Een**, Smart Voter creator and longtime coordinator.
- ☆ Your Board agreed to pay membership dues to Access Humboldt to become an organizational member.

*-Lorey Keele, Secretary*



**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:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Individual membership   | <input type="checkbox"/> I cannot join at this time, but please accept my donation of _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Household membership    | <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me more information                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Associate membership    | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be contacted by the nominating committee           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional donation of _____ |   |

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 through the Humboldt Area Foundation, are tax-deductible. For more information call 444-9252.

**The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County**

434 7th Street, Eureka CA 95501  
 Mailing Address:  
 P.O. Box 3219  
 Eureka, CA 95502  
 (707) 444-9252 www.lwvhc.org vote@lwvhc.org

**Who's Who in Your League 2008-2009**

**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!

# The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

434 7th Street, Eureka CA 95501 - (707) 444-9252

www.lwvhc.org - vote@lwvhc.org

| FEBRUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
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| 15       | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22       | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

| MARCH |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |    |

## Calendar

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 2  | Board Meeting, 6-8 P.M.,<br>434 7th Street, Eureka   |
| February 28 | ☆ <b>General Meeting</b><br>Program Planning, 12-3 P.M.,<br>Area 1 Agency on Aging<br>434 7th Street, Eureka |
| March 2     | Board Meeting, 6-8 P.M.,<br>434 7th Street, Eureka   |
| March 19    | <b>General Meeting</b><br>Housing and Mental Health<br>Time and Location to be Announced                     |

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.

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P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

Editor: Amanda Windsor