



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

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June - July 2009

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President's Message

Kudos to all of you for making the 2009 annual meeting successful and enjoyable! Furthermore, your directions to the Board, combined with the program planning decisions made earlier in the year, clarified my task at the LWVC Convention. Special thanks to **Kay Escarda** and **Nancy Quintrell** for arranging the venue and the delicious dinner.

The convention was mentally stimulating and physically exhausting. Serving on the resolution committee was enlightening: observing the resolution of conflict on the floor made me appreciate the way the League conducts business. There were disagreements, passionate pleas, votes and more votes until ultimately the LWVC Board had directions, a budget, and a program for the next two years.

There will be no new study; rather the LWVC Board will concentrate on the implementation of the new redistricting plan and on government reform, particularly in the area of finance. Legislative priorities continue to include health care and natural resources.

Single payer health care has not been part of the discussion in Washington D.C. A Berkeley League member, who is also a doctor, was arrested with others when attempting to ask Congress to consider a single payer plan. We in Humboldt are aware of the inadequacy of our health care system and will be active in the coming months, so "stay tuned."

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharolyn Hutton,
President

New Members

☆ *Jeanne O'Neale*
Denise VandenBos
Peter Pennekamp ☆

Welcome! We look forward to seeing you at future League meetings.

Annual Meeting

Thanks to the efforts of the following people for making the Annual Meeting a fine event: **Nancy and Don Quintrell, Judy and John Bennett, PA and George WinterSun, Judy Stoffer, Lorey Keele and Kaylen Escarda.** Several people just pitched in with set-up and clean-up on-the-spot which was much appreciated and so League-like! Special mention goes to **Nancy Quintrell** for co-chairing and for table decorations.

Appreciation also goes to **Humboldt Area Foundation** for the very reasonable cost of an excellent facility and to **Rita's Mexican Restaurant** caterer for the great food. **Judy Bennett's** punch bowl was a special addition to our Mexican theme, even if we did miss Cinco de Mayo by two days!

Thank you to our faithful members who came out to fulfill our quorum requirements and our commitment of numbers to the caterer. Your timely reservations forestall the panic that sets in when we only have 17 of the reservations we need for the quorum three days before the event. Remember, you can help stave off the aging process when you reserve by the cut-off date!

Yours in League,

-Kay Escarda,
Nominating Committee Chair

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

Dues Are Due, Almost

It's that time again. Shortly, you will be receiving a notice in the mail that your League dues are payable by July 1, 2009.

If you were able to attend Annual Meeting, you heard **Nancy Kay** report that all of our dues dollars and then some are given to our State and National Leagues. The budget committee and the Board made the decision not to raise dues this year because of the economic setbacks most of us are experiencing. For this year, dues for an individual member will remain at \$50 and for a couple at the same address, \$75. If your budget allows for a contribution, please feel free to write your check for a greater amount. That will help our to keep our local League running.

Many of you have already paid for the new year. Thank you! I will be sending renewal notices to those of you who have not paid at this time. Our League fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. So, you are not remiss. Please make my job easier and respond quickly. Contact me with any questions at jbennett82@sbcglobal.net. Many thanks.

*-Judy Bennett,
Outgoing Treasurer*

Thank You!

A warm thank you to League members who made contributions to the League: **Sharolyn Hutton** in memory of **David Hutton**, and **Lisa Naef** in honor of **Evelyn Bennett**.

Thanks also to **Mr. and Mrs. Ted Trichilo** and to **Dr. Kathryn Corbett** for their contributions to our education fund. We would also like to recognize **Carol Johnson's** generous contribution to our operating budget.

Kudos to all of you who volunteered to help staff the Avenue of the Giants Marathon. You earned \$250 for the League.

*Judy Bennett,
Outgoing Treasurer*

A Letter from the LWVUS President

Dear League Members,

Passage of comprehensive health care reform is a major priority for the League of Women Voters of the United States in the 111th Congress, and we look forward to working with Leagues to pass meaningful health care reform. For the next few weeks, the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be lobbying all 100 Senate offices in support of comprehensive health care reform legislation. We have also sent out an action alert in support of the President's budget, which contains essential funding for health care reform.

The League of Women Voters is urging Senators to draft legislation that guarantees quality, affordable health care to all U.S. residents, including the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary, acute and long-term care, mental health care, and prescription drug coverage as well as allow for pre-existing conditions; establishes a system-wide program to coordinate information, establishes best practices and provides consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families; and provides effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allows for efficient and economical delivery of care.

The League is working closely with our allies on Capitol Hill and coalition partners to set and implement legislative strategies that will ensure that we achieve the key goals of the LWVUS health care position. We need to carefully consider our options and what makes the most sense over the near and long term. This is the first opportunity to pass meaningful health care reform in a very long time, and we want to be sure we are considering all options and following the best course.

This year, we anticipate that there will be a number of competing health care reform bills in the 111th Congress. At this time, the LWVUS has not endorsed any specific health care legislation and we are not authorizing any state or local League to do so. The key committees in the House and Senate will be considering a number of approaches to achieve comprehensive health care reform.

We have recently received inquiries from Leagues regarding support for specific health care legislation including H.R. 676, the United States National Health Care Act. While the LWVUS did not endorse H.R. 676 in previous Congresses, individual Leagues were given the go ahead to contact their Members of Congress in support of H.R. 676 if they felt that they had member understanding and agreement. Health care reform was a priority for the LWVUS in the last Congress, but the main emphasis was on reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). H.R. 676 was one of the few bills addressing comprehensive health care reform in the 110th Congress, while it is one of many options in the 111th Congress.

We expect that there will be a lot of work to do to keep Congress focused on passing comprehensive health care reform. Please be sure to respond to LWVUS action alerts such as the current alert on the President's budget and health care funding. We look forward to working with you to achieve lasting health care reform.

In League,

Mary G. Wilson

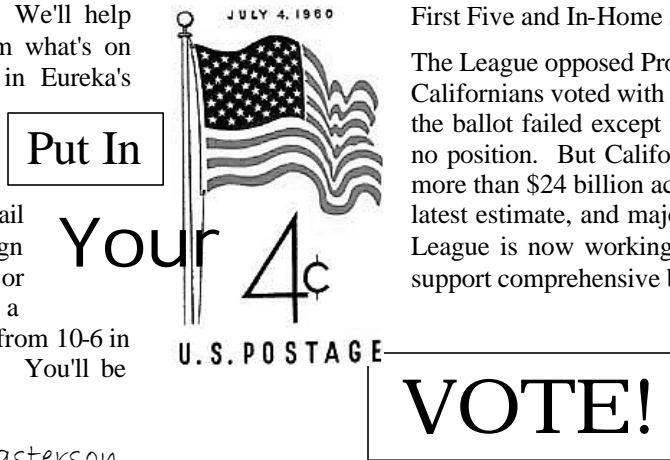
Voter Service

Fourth of July in Humboldt

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We get all decked out in flag colors and show people what the League is all about on our favorite holiday. No family newsletters to get out, no gift shopping to do, no kitchens steamed up with turkey vapors. This leaves plenty of time to toddle on down to the Arcata Plaza and/or Eureka's Two Street for chicken-on-a-stick or a tofu dog, some good music, and a chance to remind the community that there will be another opportunity to exercise the voting franchise on November 3. We'll help voters register and tell them what's on the next ballot (a change in Eureka's ward system?) and encourage them to check out our great organization.

Phone 768-3118 or e-mail buffy7@suddenlink.net to sign up. You can help set up or take down a booth or staff a booth for a couple of hours from 10-6 in Arcata and 10-4 in Eureka. You'll be glad you did!

-Carol Masterson,
Voter Service Director



Proposition Presentation

The recent special election posed a challenge for voters who were trying to understand the potential effects of the six propositions. The local LatinoNet, a coalition representing over 50 agencies from areas such as health care, social services, education, business and children's services, invited our League to present information on the propositions at their May meeting. The members of the LatinoNet were very concerned about the effect that the propositions, if passed, would have on programs such as First Five and In-Home Supportive Services.

The League opposed Propositions 1A, 1C, 1D, and 1E, and Californians voted with the League: all the propositions on the ballot failed except for 1F, on which the League took no position. But California now faces a budget deficit of more than \$24 billion according to the legislative analyst's latest estimate, and major budget cuts are inevitable. The League is now working with other state organizations to support comprehensive budget reform.

-Willa Mauro,
Citizen Education

Excitement on the Avenue

After nearly twenty years of staffing the Avenue of the Giants Marathon 20-mile aid station, we had our first real emergency! One of the runners "hit the wall", collapsed, and was taken to the hospital. Thankfully, he was out of danger and recovering by the time the ambulance came. Special thanks to **Heather Gonzales** for her first aid expertise in getting the runner stabilized and on the way to recovery. Good job, Heather.

This was a vivid example of why we are there. The runners appreciate our drinks, oranges, bananas, band-aids and encouragement, but looking out for the safety of the runners is really the primary job. Our 44-year-old "emergency" was fortunate that he collapsed just thirty yards from our station. After he regained coherence, he weakly joked, "It wasn't planned." I knew then he was feeling better.

The weather became nice after a cold, drippy start; the bonus Avenue logo bags and tee shirts are great, as usual, and the crew performed superbly. The \$250 check to our treasury is most welcome as well. All in all, another great day in the redwoods thanks to **Carol Masterson, Laura Cunningham, Tom Oliver, Doug Scales, Heather and Jayme Gonzales, Debby Storre, Beth Matsumoto, PA WinterSun** – and **Six Rivers Running Club**, of course.

Until next year!

-Kay Escarda,
Marathon Coordinator

News from the LWVUS

League Celebrates Diversity on

Supreme Court

Washington, DC – **Mary G. Wilson**, national President of the nonpartisan League of Women Voters today made the following statement regarding **President Obama's** nomination of **Judge Sonia Sotomayor** to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The League of Women Voters is pleased by President Obama's announcement this morning that he will nominate the first Latina, Judge Sonia Sotomayor, to serve on the nation's highest court.

"The nomination of Judge Sotomayor to fill the vacancy left by retiring Justice David Souter is a bold step by President Obama to diversify the Court.

"It is a time to celebrate our nation's diversity and differences. The nomination of the first Latina and the third woman to the country's highest court is cause for all Americans to be proud.

"Today's announcement is historic for all American citizens. Judge Sotomayor's nomination marks another milestone on our path toward a democracy that is truly representative of its citizenry."

Past President Honored

Every year, the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce honors the town's most prominent citizen by naming her or him as the Grand Marshall of the Pony Express Days Parade. This year LWVHC Past President **Anne Hartline**, principal of McKinleyville Middle School (MMS), was so honored.

From the *McKinleyville Press*:

"Anne is terrific. She brings her enthusiasm and energy to MMS every single day," said school board member **Barbara Kelly**.

"She is bright, compassionate, and one of the hardest working people I have ever met. She clearly loves life and shares that love for life and for learning with the kids at school," Kelly added. "We in McKinleyville are very fortunate that we have such a wonderful addition to our community."

-Amanda Windsor,
VOTER Editor

News from the LWVC

2009 LWVC Convention: Priorities for Education and Action

Every two years, the delegates at our LWVC Convention decide the major priorities on which the state and local Leagues will mutually focus their efforts for the coming biennium. Delegates to the 2009 LWVC Convention, which took place May 15-17 in Long Beach, decided not to undertake a new statewide study, and chose the following priorities for Education and Action:

Redistricting Implementation—With the approval of Proposition 11 last November, much needs to be done to assure that the formation, selection and performance of a citizens redistricting commission is successful. We will be mounting a statewide effort to monitor and assure the success of this reform.

Government Reform—We will be using our various LWVC Government positions related to State and Local Finances, Initiative and Referendum Process, the State Constitution, Campaign Financing and Voting Rights on this effort. We expect to partner with groups such as Next 10, California Forward, the Center for Governmental Studies and the Bay Area Council to address issues such as the continuing flaws in the state budget process and the need for an indirect initiative process, and we will inform the public about larger issues such as the possible need for a California Constitutional Convention. We also plan to work with the California Clean Money Campaign and others to support the June 2010 ballot measure to establish public funding of campaigns for the office of Secretary of State.

Secretary of State Debra Bowen Honors LWVC for Voter Education and Outreach

The League of Women Voters of California was recently honored with the Medallion Award of the National Association of Secretaries of State. The award recognizes outstanding efforts in nonpartisan voter education and outreach for 2008. California Secretary of State **Debra Bowen** presented the award on May 16 during the LWVC's convention in Long Beach.

"The League's longstanding leadership in strengthening democracy makes it deserving of this NASS Medallion honor," said Secretary Bowen, California's chief elections officer. "Thanks to the dedicated work of organizations like the LWVC, California saw record turnout in last year's presidential election!"

LWVC President **Janis R. Hirohama** said, "We are honored to receive this award. It is a tribute to our high quality, user-friendly voter education services, including SmartVoter.org and the Easy Voter Guide, and to the many League volunteers who make our work possible."

*The League of Women Voters
of Humboldt County*

Board Briefs...

From the June Board Meeting:

- ☆ **President Hutton** appointed **Helen Andrews, Byrd Lochtie** and **Judy Bennett** to the 2009-2010 Board of Directors for one-year terms.
- ☆ **Helen Andrews** was reappointed to the Access Humboldt Board as the LWVHC representative.
- ☆ The Board retreat was scheduled for August 7-8.
- ☆ Government Chair **Helen Andrews** is investigating whether or not public participation on the Housing Element of the General Plan has been eliminated.

From the May Board Meeting:

- ☆ **Carol Masterson** reported that LWVHC will have a booth at this year's North Country Fair, and that the Avenue of the Giants run went very well and was lots of fun for those who participated.
- ☆ A media committee was created to oversee planning of media outreach via our website. Media committee members include: **Sarah Reid, Beth Matsumoto, Amanda Windsor, Jessie Reid, Amanda Gutwirth** and **Alan Dillingham**.
- ☆ Easy Voter Guides were received in 5 languages and were distributed throughout the county.

-Lorey Keele,
Outgoing Secretary

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Eureka, CA 95502
(707) 444-9252 www.lwvhc.org vote@lwvhc.org

Who's Who in Your League 2009-2010

Your League Board

President..... Sharolyn Hutton
Vice President.....
Past President..... Lorey Keele
Secretary..... Peg Gardner
Treasurer..... Nancy Kay
Director..... Helen Andrews
Director..... Judy Bennett
Director..... Byrd Lochtie
Director..... Carol Masterson
Director..... Beth Matsumoto
Director..... Willa Mauro
Director..... Nancy Nieboer
Director..... Amanda Windsor

Candidate Forums..... Carol Masterson
Citizen Education..... Willa Mauro
Financial Development Director..... Nancy Kay
Government..... Helen Andrews
Historian..... Carole Ziskin
Membership..... Judy Bennett, Kay Escarda,
..... Nancy Quintrell
Natural Resources.....
Nominating Committee Chair..... Nancy Quintrell
Poll Workers Coordinator..... Carolyn Otis
Program Director..... Sarah Reid
Publications..... Lorey Keele
Publicity Director..... Beth Matsumoto
Access Humboldt Rep...... Helen Andrews
Social Policy..... Sarah Reid
**State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL)
Committee Co-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!

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 - (707) 444-9252

www.lwvhc.org - vote@lwvhc.org

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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AUGUST						
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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. and 10 A.M.-4 P.M. respectively. Celebrate the birth of our democracy by helping it to thrive. Call Carol Masterson at 768-3118 to volunteer. You'll be glad you did!

August 7-8

Board Retreat

Time and location to be announced

For changes to the calendar and lots of other information check out our League Web site 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 in and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to membership nor to 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

June/July 2009

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P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

Editor: Amanda Windsor