



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 51 No. 6

August - September 2009

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President's Message

Welcome back to another great year with the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County! We are getting off to a great start on September 12 with an outstanding Membership Brunch. **Linda Craig** will be our keynote speaker. Linda was the LWVC Advocacy Director, 2007-09, and participated as League chairperson in the successful adoption of Proposition 11, Redistricting Reform. During her 15-month term, she organized League efforts on various ballot measures in four statewide elections. We're very pleased to have her back.

During this year of such financial uncertainty and hardship, the Board felt it is very important that League members take action. To be effective and focus our efforts, a strong observer corps would be most helpful. At the brunch, you will be able to sign up to be an observer. Observers may attend the actual meetings or watch the meetings on local access television and/or online. Remember that observers do not participate in the meetings, they simply observe while wearing a League button and take notes about the decisions made.

I will close with my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful board of directors who met on August 7 and 8 to develop plans for the upcoming year. In addition to setting the calendar, most of the policies and procedures were updated (no easy task!) and should be online later this year when the process is complete. Thank you, Directors!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharolyn Hutton,
President

Bring a Friend or Five!

Membership Brunch

Saturday, September 12, 2009

8:30 - 11

Wharfinger Building
1 Marina Way, Eureka, CA

Linda Craig

Keynote speaker

"Redistricting and Constitutional Reform: What's Happening and What You Can Do To Make It Happen."

Members are \$15 and **guests are \$5** IF you register by September 4. \$20/\$10 at the door.

RSVP today!

To reserve a seat, mail checks to LWVHC,
PO Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502

Membership Brunch

Help us bring new members to the League and enjoy a great brunch and speaker. Potential new members, also known as 'guests', are **only \$5** when you register in advance, so invite with enthusiasm!

At last year's Membership Brunch, **Linda Craig** provided an interesting overview of the importance of redistricting reform, calling for a process and standards that promote fair and effective representation. Now, with the passage of Proposition 11 in 2008, redistricting reform is in the implementation phase, and the LWVHC is pleased to have Linda back to present "Redistricting and Constitutional Reform: What's Happening and What You Can Do To Make It Happen."

League members will be on hand to answer questions about the services, programs and projects of the LWVHC.

The brunch takes place at the Wharfinger Building on September 12. Registration opens at 8:30 A.M. Do a very good deed for the League AND save money when you RSVP. Pre-paid reservations made by September 4 are \$15 for League members, \$5 for non-members. Mail your checks to LWVHC, P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502. Contact the League at 444-9252 or email: vote@lwwhc.org.

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!

Voter Service

Back in the Saddle Again

Thanks to **PA** and **George WinterSun**, **Amanda Windsor**, **Kay Escarda** and **Helen Andrews**, the early morning transfer on July 4 of the voter registration booth gear and materials went splendidly. It was great to have help in this labor-intensive-but-well-worth-it endeavor. (The old office, with all its drawbacks, had one very good thing: a 20-foot distance from curb to office door. The new 2nd floor office is a different kettle of fish.)

Meeting Helen in Arcata were **Debby** and **Dick Storre**, veteran booth constructors. **Dottie Riffenburg** helped Amanda and Kay put up the Eureka booth. Then along in succession came **Nancy** and **Don Quintrell**, **Nancy Nieboer**, **Byrd Lochtie**, **Sharolyn Hutton**, **Carole Ziskin**, **Millie Brucker** and **Phyllis Helligas** to register voters. The Glorious Takedown Crews included **Carole**, **Sharolyn**, **Claudia Cranford**, and also **Kay**, **Terry** and **Christyl Escarda**.

Many thanks to all these lovely people for their time and dedication to the League. We spread some good will, gave away a lot of flags and some information, and registered a few voters.

I'm rethinking my obsession with these summer fairs, so unless someone out there is dying to take a couple of them off my hands, which I would welcome with good wishes and lots of advice, we'll be skipping the Apple Harvest Festival this year and the Arcata Fourth of July Festival next year.

Next up on the agenda, the one and only North Country Fair and Harvest Celebration, back in the hands of the Same Old People. Music, dance, farmer's market, two parades, and great food. Crafts will be juried and no imports or manufactured goods are allowed. Many nonprofit organizations are represented, and this will be the LWVHC's fifteenth appearance there, September 19 and 20 on the Arcata Plaza. So... all that stuff at the beginning of this article needs to be done again on Saturday morning and Sunday evening! Who's game? buffy7@suddenlink.net or 768-3118.

Scheduling has just begun for the fall candidate forums. There will probably be only one KEET-TV forum: a total of five candidates for Harbor District Divisions Three and Four. Watch the Spotlight and next month's VOTER for the date. There likely will be requests for school board and community service district board forums, so stand ready to volunteer. Make democracy work!

-Carol Masterson,
Voter Service Director

News from the LWVC

State Budget and Fiscal Reform

LWVC Call to Action!

Act now to tell your legislator to support real reform through reduction of the two-thirds requirement to pass the budget or raise revenues. There are bills in the legislature right now that would reform the two-thirds vote requirement but are stuck in committee.

The LWVC has been actively speaking out on state budget and fiscal reform issues. The budget and governance crisis in Sacramento has led to devastating cuts in vital services, saddled California with the lowest state bond rating in the country, and brought national attention to the long-running dysfunction in our state's budget process. The League believes that without serious reform of the state's budgetary and fiscal processes — such as changing the two-thirds vote rule for budget approval and revenue increases, and establishing a fair and efficient tax structure based on ability to pay — California will continue its downward slide.

On July 15, the League addressed the Commission on the 21st Century Economy, which is looking at reforms to California's revenue structure. We cautioned the commission to avoid overemphasizing revenue stability at the expense of tax fairness for all Californians and adequate funds for vital public services.

After the budget was signed in late July, the LWVC issued a statement in which we decried the draconian cuts to vital services, the borrowing from local governments, and the accounting gimmicks built into the budget. We noted that the dysfunctional process highlighted the need for reform, and urged serious consideration of changes such as eliminating the two-thirds vote rule for the budget and revenue increases and a review of the tax system, including tax breaks.

LWVC President Janis Hirohama's op-ed on the need for budget and fiscal reform appeared in the North County Times on August 2.

Support the League

**League Dues were due on July 1.
If you haven't sent in your dues yet,
please do so today!**

News from the LWVUS

PUBLIC OPTION IS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTH REFORM

League Urges Congress and President to Continue Support for Public Option

"The public option in health care reform may not be essential to bureaucrats or insurance companies but it absolutely is essential to the almost 47 million uninsured Americans who live day to day without health care coverage," said League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson.

"But the possibility of universal coverage is not the only advantage of the public option," warned Wilson. "We must control costs and the public option is the best chance to bring costs into line with reality. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care.

"The public option is critical to health care reform," Wilson concluded. "Now is not the time for politicians to get cold feet just because a handful of special-interest-backed protesters spread lies and make noise at public forums.

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:

- Membership options: \$50 Individual, \$75 Household, \$50 Associate, Additional donation, I cannot join at this time, 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.

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 2009-2010

Your League Board

- President: Sharolyn Hutton
Vice President
Past President: Lorey Keele
Secretary: Peg Gardner
Treasurer: Nancy Kay
Director: Byrd Lochtie
Director: Carol Masterson
Director: Beth Matsumoto
Director: Willa Mauro
Director: Nan Nieboer
Director: Sarah Reid
Director: Amanda Windsor

- Candidate Forums: Carol Masterson
Citizen Education: Willa Mauro
Election Service Chair: Byrd Lochtie
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
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: 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

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

www.lwvhc.org - vote@lwvhc.org

SEPTEMBER						
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			

OCTOBER						
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

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| September 8 | Board Meeting 6-8 P.M.
434 7th Street, Eureka |
| September 12 | Membership Brunch 8:30-11 A.M.
Wharfinger Building, 1 Marina Way, Eureka |
| September 19-20 | League Booth, North Country Fair
On the Plaza, Arcata Call 768-3118 to volunteer! |
| October 5 | Board Meeting 6-8 P.M.
434 7th Street, Eureka |
| October 19 | Letter Writing Party
Time and location to be announced. |
| October 21 | KEET-TV Candidate forum, 7-8 P.M.
Harbor District Divisions Three and Four |
| October 21 | Last day to register to vote
to participate in the November 3 election. |

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 2009-2010

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.

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Eureka, CA 95502

Editor: Amanda Windsor