



# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 51 No. 8

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## President's Message

It is almost Thanksgiving, and I again have the opportunity to express my thanks for the League and its members who give of their time and efforts in so many aspects of our community. Giving thanks was one of the goals of our action evening on October 19 when we wrote thank you notes to those public officials who work for the good of our community, sometimes under difficult situations. I encourage all of us to write, call or e-mail our public officials concerning issues of concern, such as health care reform, state constitutional changes, or to express our thanks for their willingness to serve.

In this issue, you will see the first in a series of "Making Connections" interviews with public officials. Supervisor Jimmy Smith, a long-time League member, graciously agreed to find time in his busy schedule for the interview. It is our hope that these interviews will provide a glimpse into the philosophies and work of our public officials as they relate to the community and to League issues. Smith is an outstanding example of an official who promotes civil discourse in the public arena.

In closing, let me share that Humboldt Bay is itself a reason to be thankful. Its beauty, its sounds, and its inhabitants all provide me with a sense of joy, wonderment and peace.

Peace to each of you,

Sincerely,

*Dr. Sharolyn Hutton,*  
President

## An Interview Series Begins

During the coming months, the LWVHC will interview local public officials with questions of importance to the League and to our community. Our first interview, which has been condensed for the VOTER, is with Supervisor **Jimmy Smith**, Chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

## Making Connections: An Interview With Supervisor Jimmy Smith

*In 2010, all of us will be asked to participate in the federal census. Please tell us about its importance to Humboldt County.*

It is essential that every person respond to the census. Based on the information gathered from census responses, our county receives state and federal contributions that affect our roads, our water and waste water facility improvements, our schools and much more. I presently meet with a seven-county group working to have our areas declared "disadvantaged communities". If the 2010 census data helps us reach that designation, then our community would be eligible for additional funds and the board would be able to focus those funds on specific areas such as housing, transportation routes, trails, safe schools and employment. Accurate census data could also help with our obtaining additional state funds. For example, there could be an increase in funds to pay for ridding our county of abandoned vehicles, one of the issues in which I and my constituents are very interested.

*The League has long taken a stand in favor of inclusionary housing in the general plan. How do you believe that is progressing at this time?*

The housing element was approved in spite of the fact that there is no financing mechanism to make it work at the present time. For that reason, and because I believe that public participation should always be encouraged, I was not in favor of approval at this time. The board and the city councils will be working together on this.

*There has been a great deal in the news about water use in our state. What would you like our readers to know about the rules being discussed at the state level in regard to Humboldt County?*

-continued on page 2

## 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!

## Citizen Education

### *The League Reaches Out*

On October 11 the League participated in the Spanish Language Health Fair sponsored by LatinoNet. The College of the Redwoods campus was alive with children's activities, including pony rides and a bike rodeo. Health services were offered, including seasonal flu vaccinations. Latin music filled the air. Inside the cafeteria numerous tables provided Spanish language information from many community agencies. Our table had voter information brochures in Spanish, speedily ordered for this event by **Lorey Keele**. **Carole Ziskin** and **Nan Nieboer** joined me at the table as did **Rafael Leon**, a community volunteer who offered his interpretation services. Although we did not generate much interest in voting information or voter registration, the experience overall was a positive step in reaching out to the Latino community.

*-Willa Mauro, Citizen Education*

### *Another Winning Season*

**Beth Matsumoto, Nan Nieboer, Helen Hui, Debby Storre, Carole Ziskin, Byrd Lochtie, Sharolyn Hutton, Willa Mauro, Carol Johnson, Dottie Riffenburg, Donna Clark, Jim Clark and Rosemarie Falor Luis** made up the crews for our three candidate forums for this local election.

There were good turnouts for the two community forums, both of which were recorded for play on Access Humboldt, and the KEET broadcast was simulcast on KHSU, giving many more voters the opportunity to see and/or hear the candidates than back in the old days. Thanks to all our fine volunteers. Now rest up for next year's primary season!

*-Carol Masterson,  
Candidate Forums*

## *Making Connections: An Interview*

*-Continued from page 1*

I have worked with Congressmen Thompson and Miller on the Central Valley Project and have expressed my concern to them and others about the declining salmon runs and about the diversion of water to Central Valley farmers. My greatest concern about the state's present discussion on water is that they are not forthcoming with the details and yet they know the Sacramento system is overused. I want to keep more water in the rivers and promote the use of gray water and other conservation measures. Right now, Trinity River water is pumped to the San Joaquin Valley and Eel River water goes through PG&E to generate some electricity, then the water continues on to Lake Mendocino before being diverted to the Russian River. I feel that putting water back into the Eel River rather than sending it to the Russian is prudent, but do not want to have a set amount of water being returned, such as a previously suggested 15%—what if we need 20% or 30%? This is a complex issue, and I would welcome the opportunity to participate in an informational League meeting about our water issues.

***Please give us an overview of the ways the board interacts with other agencies, such as the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (HBHRCD) or the City of Eureka regarding the Balloon Track.***

The board has some of the same geographical areas as HBHRCD; for example, Shelter Cove, which is included in the Greater Bay region, but it is under the jurisdiction of HBHRCD both by legislative action and because intertidal

influence is under the watch of HBHRCD. King Salmon is another example of a shared area. My district includes the community of King Salmon, but the beach and bay area are in the jurisdiction of the HBHRCD. By working together and creating shared ordinances, we were able to make great progress in restoring King Salmon to the uses for which it was originally created. In fact, I drive through there almost daily to ensure the ordinances are observed. As far as the Balloon Track area, that is under the jurisdiction of the Eureka City Council, the HBHRCD and the Coastal Commission.

***Supervisor Smith was asked to share a topic of his choice.***

I believe partnerships are important. Partnerships help ensure that all of the agencies are working together for similar goals. For example, county and city government may work together on projects such as traffic flow and road construction, since they are often connected. I work with representatives from school districts and other agencies in discussions about our community needs. By working together, I believe we can find solutions that meet all of our needs rather than only those of which a single agency might be aware. The Board of Supervisors, the HBHRCD, our schools and cities, county and state agencies can form partnerships that work for the good of the entire community. That's what making connections and teamwork mean.

***The League thanks Supervisor Jimmy Smith for his leadership and hard work in promoting civil discourse, involving the public in decision-making, and developing interagency partnerships.***

## Voter Service

### *LWVC Workshop is Info Rich*

I traveled to Sacramento on October 17 to attend a LWVC Regional Workshop hosted by the Sacramento County LWV. This was an excellent opportunity to meet other members in the North State. There were three session topics and considerable discussion:

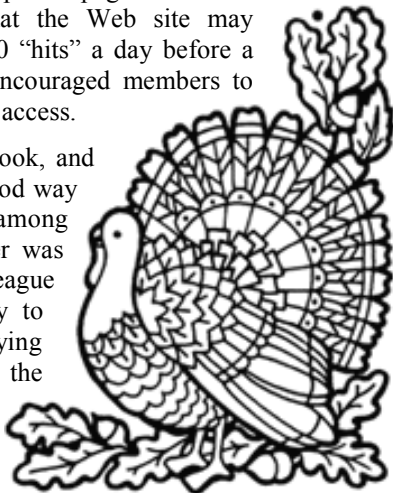
*“Political, YES; Partisan, NO! Walking the Fine Line”*

Opening the workshop, **Jackie Jacobberger** shared some of her 44 years of League experience as she talked about the League’s nonpartisan policy and how it is vital to the League’s role in providing a place for civil discourse on important issues. Jackie provided specific examples that highlighted the value of reviewing the local nonpartisan policy annually, and in publishing the policy in the VOTER and on the Web site to promote member understanding and public awareness. Resources on this topic abound at the LWVUS Web site, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). The following areas of the site were recommended as particularly useful: ‘For Members’, ‘Leaders’ Section’, and ‘Essential League References’.

*“Tools You Can Use: A Guided Tour of the League’s Members Only Web Page Plus Examples of How Leagues Use Facebook, YouTube and Twitter”*

In the second session, **Jennifer Waggoner**, LWVC Communications Director, brought the group up to date on the League’s social networking progress. After a quick course in navigating the LWVC Web site, [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org), she showed us some of the changes that will make the site friendlier for members and visitors alike. One key change will be a clear differentiation between the sections on Education and Action. This currently is attempted through different heading colors, but soon there may be separate pages for those topics. She reported that the Web site may receive as many as 40,000 “hits” a day before a state-wide election, and encouraged members to sign up for Members Only access.

The LWVUS is on Facebook, and using that site can be a good way to build community among League members. Twitter was not recommended for League use, but it can be a way to learn what people are saying about an issue or about the League (by doing a search for “LWVHC”, for example).



*“Redistricting and Constitutional Reform: What’s Happening and What You Can Do To Make It Happen” ...or...Counting Heads & Drawing Lines*

**Suzanne Stassevitch** presented our third topic, providing a comprehensive overview of the Citizens Redistricting Commission from the State Auditor’s Office, and of the summary sheets prepared by the LWVC that enumerate the duties of Redistricting Commissioners and the reasons to apply to be a commissioner. Links to this information are available at [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org). The League will participate as an observer corps during the public redistricting process.

Suzanne also emphasized the importance of the League supporting the census effort through partnering with other organizations to extend the reach of information into schools, community centers, health clinics, and so on. The Web site, social networking sites, and the VOTER can also be used to educate about the census and redistricting. Letters to editors and to blogs can also be used effectively, as can speaking before local governing bodies.

The focus then moved to constitutional reform. The League has studied the issue since the 1950s, but has not taken a position on a state constitutional convention. Major questions remain about who the delegates should be, how they should be selected, and what the scope of the mandate would be. Other groups, such as Repair California and California Forward, are preparing to submit propositions for the 2010 ballot, and a legislative committee on budget reform continues to discuss ways to make state government more efficient, accountable, transparent and accessible.

During lunch we formed into groups to discuss specific topics. With many representatives from the Central Valley area, water issues proved to be the hottest topic. Next up was Voter Service, and with help from MTA **Susan Wilson** we shared specific examples and sought solutions for handling such things as a forum among three challengers plus the incumbent in a recall election, or an empty-chair debate when one of the candidates is absent due to a last-minute emergency but submits a written statement. In discussing the difficulties of getting candidates for school boards, special districts and judgeships to provide ballot statements, we learned that personal calls to the candidates could result in many more such submissions to Smart Voter.

The next Leadership Council meeting is scheduled for May 15-16, 2010 in Sacramento.

-Nan Nieboer,  
Voter Service Co-Director

## *News from the LWVUS*

### *Health Care Ad Aims in Key States*

**Washington, DC** – Today the League of Women Voters began airing a 30-second television ad condemning the intentional lies and desperate tactics of health care reform opponents.

The ad, which will air in Arkansas, Maine and North Dakota, urges Americans to stand up to the distortions by taking direct action in support of health care reform. To view the full ad, “Stand Up to the Lies,” visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

“After watching opponents of health care reform repeatedly attempt to scare people with lies and disorderly conduct, the League decided that we must speak up,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson.

“This is an unusual step for us. But as a non-partisan membership organization that believes in reasoned and civil debate we felt compelled to take a stand against the lies and the distortions,” Wilson stated. “We know our modest buy is a drop in the bucket compared to the vast resources being spent by special interests, but we also know that our message is shared by countless, everyday Americans.”

“Health care is too important to let the nay-sayers and the special interests stand in the way of real reform. We have an obligation to get the facts straight,” Wilson said. “We hope that Americans who see this ad online and on TV will take action and tell their Senators to stand up to the lies.”

“We have had an overwhelming response from League members and supporters on this issue,” concluded Wilson. “We need everyone’s help in the fight for reform. Sharing this message is one way to take action.”

### *The League Urges Congress to Oppose*

#### *Two Anti-Reform Amendments*

The League and coalition partners sent two letters to Senators this month urging opposition to Senator Murkowski’s original and revised amendments that would delay action on clean energy regulation, and block the EPA from curbing carbon dioxide pollution. Learn more at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

### *The League Thanks Senators for Supporting the JUSTICE Act*

The League and coalition partners sent a letter recently to select Senators thanking them for supporting the JUSTICE (Judiciously Using Surveillance Tools In Counterterrorism Efforts) Act, which amends three expiring provisions of the Patriot Act, and is a strong step towards restoring Americans’ privacy.

## *News from the LWVC*

### *Constitutional Reform*

As we move into the fall, we’re seeing more activity on constitutional reform by California Forward, Repair California, and the state legislature. The recently-formed joint Senate and Assembly Select Committee on Reform will hold hearings around the state beginning later this month to discuss possible reforms in budget and finance, the initiative process, and the state/local relationship. The League will look for opportunities to present our relevant positions on these issues.

Also watch for League educational materials to engage California voters on the broader questions of constitutional reform and why state government remains year after year in both constant turmoil and paralysis.

### *Redistricting Implementation Takes a Big Step Forward*

Great progress is being made on the regulations for selecting the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Read the revised draft regulations and public input on the Bureau of State Audits Web site. The League and our partners submitted detailed comments and we continue to work on the regulations, the commission application, and plans for outreach to communities around the state. Interested in applying for the Commission and want to know what it takes to serve? Do you know somebody who would make a great candidate? Find good material to explain why they should apply at [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org).

### *League-Supported Bills Await Governor’s Action*

Would allowing 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote help more young people establish a lifelong habit of voting? Would it make high school civics education more effective? On October 1, the LWVC urged Governor Schwarzenegger to sign AB 30, which would authorize pre-registration for 17-year-olds.

Read our statement of support at [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org), and check the LWVC Bill Status Report (BSR) to see what other League-supported bills have been sent to the Governor’s desk.

The BSR reports the status of all bills on which the LWVC has taken a stand. Read it for a preview of the action in 2010.

**Board Briefs...**

From the October 5 Board Meeting:

- ★ A draft organizational chart of “Who’s Who” in the LWVHC will be reviewed at the next board meeting. The goal is to have the listing reflect the major areas of responsibility with their corresponding committees. Nan Nieboer has begun work on this project.
- ★ Led by **Willa Mauro**, the Citizen Education committee’s March program will focus on promoting widespread participation in the 2010 Census.
- ★ **Beth Matsumoto** reported that nomination forms for the Civic Contribution Awards at the April 16 State of the Community Luncheon are available and are due by December 1.
- ★ According to **Carol Masterson**, 15 voters were registered at the Voter Service booth during the North Country Fair.
- ★ Publicity Director **Beth Matsumoto**’s work will be coordinated with the work of the Media Committee, under **Amanda Windsor**’s leadership. The Media Committee will be drafting policies and procedures to bring to the board.

-Peg Gardner,  
Secretary

*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
- Media Chair** ..... Amanda Windsor
- 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.** ..... Peg Gardner
- 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 Co-Directors** ..... Nan Nieboer  
..... Carol Masterson
- Webmaster/Smart Voter** ..... Amanda Windsor

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

*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

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
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29	30					

DECEMBER						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Calendar

- November 2 **Board Meeting** 6-8 P.M.  
434 7th Street, Eureka
- November 3 **ELECTION—Vote!**
- November 16 **Position Review Meeting** 6-8 P.M.  
434 7th Street, Eureka
- December 1 **Deadline** for nominations for the Civic Contribution Award. See the October VOTER for a nomination form or call 444-9252
- December 7 **Board Meeting** 6-8 P.M.  
434 7th Street, Eureka

For changes to the calendar and lots of other information  
check out our League Web site at:

[www.lwvhc.org](http://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.

## THE VOTER

### November 2009

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County  
P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

Editor: Amanda Windsor

*Don't Forget!*

Civic Contribution Award Nomination forms must be  
submitted by **December 1, 2009**