



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Vol. 52 No. 6

June - July 2010

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President's Message

The time has come to say farewell and turn the gavel over to our incoming president, the wonderful and amazing **Lorey Keele**.

In my final President's Message I want to include some information I shared at our well attended Annual Meeting. I came into this office on December 1, 2007 and, in the thirty months since then, our League has provided information and conducted candidate forums during multiple elections. We have had three successful State of the Community Luncheons, held three program planning events with an increasing number of members attending, and done many educational forums, such as the recent ones on the U.S. Census and the *Pros & Cons*.

We are a member of Access Humboldt and have increased the number of forums and programs we air with them. We now use the on-line VOTER for the majority of our members and do Board communications via e-mail. We moved our office to the Area 1 Agency on Aging building, an accessible space, and conducted our Board and special meetings there, rather than renting space for such meetings.

We have written letters to our representatives, to the newspapers, and to the LWVC, and spoken about certain issues to the Board of Supervisors. I think that you, the League members, do a remarkable amount of work for Humboldt County, and I thank you. I also want to thank the wonderful Board who work so hard for the League and for our community. It has been an honor to serve as your president.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharolyn Hutton,
President

☆ New Members ☆

Jolanda Ingram-Marshall
Danielle Vigil-Masten
Dave and Susan Rosso

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

Another Glorious Day on the Avenue

A loyal crew met at our "regular spot" to staff the aid station for the Avenue of the Giants Marathon on Sunday, May 2. Business was brisk and expressions of appreciation were many as we passed out water and ERG, the super-charged sport drink, along with slices of oranges and bananas to the slower and wearier runners.



Thanks to the crew: **Rudy Ramp, Vicky Turner, Debby Storre, Laura Cunningham, Tom Oliver, Doug Scales,**

Jaime and Heather Gonzales and Carol Masterson. Champions, all!

The tailgate feast topped off another glorious day in the Redwoods, a beautiful way to slide into summer!

-Kay Escarda,
Marathon Fundraiser

☆☆☆

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

Treasurer's Report on the SOCL

On April 23 the League held the State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL), our annual community event and fundraiser. It was a very successful event, not only because of our compelling speakers and award recipients, but also because the League enjoyed the tremendous support of our community.

We count on this event to provide the majority of our League's funds for our annual operations. (Our members' annual dues pay for the state and national League memberships.) We have a lot for which to be grateful. After all the bills are paid, we expect to make a profit of over \$11,000.

Several League members took the opportunity to make additional contributions to the League. Our thanks goes out to the following League members:

Tom and Emily Rowe

Kate Strickland

Carolyn Otis

Mildred Brucker

Julie Fulkerson, and

PA and George WinterSun, who, upon hearing of the 100 percent increase in the rental cost of the Adorni Center, generously provided the funds to meet that unplanned expense!

We are so grateful for the support of our community. Some members of the community who are not League members and who could not attend the luncheon generously made contributions in lieu of purchasing tickets. Please thank the following community members whenever you have an opportunity:

Lynne Wells

Brenda Malloy

Lujean S. Avant

Lynn McKenna

Laura Hussey

Mary M. Schmidbauer

Sally Biggin

William C. Weiderman, M.D.

Susan O'Connor, and

Nancy Noll, whose contribution was in memory of **Evelyn Bennett**.

We received \$1,725 in contributions alone as a result of the SOCL! This \$1,725 is included in the \$11,000 in profit described above. Thanks again, everyone.

-Nancy Kay,
Treasurer

Thanks So Much!

The League thanks the following who made donations to our Education Fund at the Humboldt Area Foundation:

Kathryn Corbett

In memory of **Evelyn Bennett:**

Mona Daly

Byrd Lochtie

Leadership Council Report

I was honored to represent the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County as a delegate at Leadership Council 2010: The Next Ninety.

If you are new to League, Leadership Council is held in even-numbered years for the purpose of adopting the LWVC's budget and giving guidance to the LWVC Board on program and methods of operations. League members also have an opportunity to attend workshops and trainings to learn from knowledgeable speakers on a variety of topics.

My journey began with a tour of the State Capitol lead by Director for Program, **Trudy Schafer**. As we made our way through the people's house and the committee hearing rooms, I felt connected with the League's mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government.

The next morning, **Janis Hirohama**, LWVC President, called the Plenary Session to order. She lamented that redistricting reform was being threatened so soon: an initiative seeking to overturn Proposition 11 is expected to be on the ballot in November. The measure has the potential to unravel all the hard work put forth by the League. With business in order, however, the state directors promptly guided us through the proposed budget, League communication strategy and membership recruitment.

Of note to our local membership, the proposed LWVC budget, which was adopted with no objection, includes a \$1 increase in the PMP from \$22 to \$23. And, although not up for consideration by the delegates, the Budget Committee recommended to the LWVC Education Fund Board to allow local Leagues to use education funds to pay up to 25% of their PMP.

In the afternoon session, I learned about potential measures on the November ballot. A few highlights as of May 13, 2010:

~Continued on page 4

Voter Service

Willing Hands

Pros & Cons

My grandmother used to say, "Willing hands make light work." That truth was demonstrated again as **Kay Escarda, Nancy Kay, Beth Matsumoto, Willa Mauro** and I prepared for the Pros & Cons presentation of the June ballot measures at the Eureka Library. With input from **Sharolyn Hutton** and **Judy Bennett**, how could the team go wrong? The presentations went smoothly, Beth's power point slides provided a good backup to our talks, and her demonstration of the information available online from LWV sites was a helpful addition to community education. **Jesse Reid** taped the presentation for viewing on Access Humboldt and on the LWVHC web page. **Nancy Quintrell** organized the light refreshments, with assistance from **Don Quintrell** and **Kay Escarda**. It was a real pleasure to work with these experienced Leaguers.

Candidate Forums

What can one say about **Carol Masterson's** myriad of candidate forums except "outstanding"? She has energized a corps of volunteers and coordinated candidate Q&A presentations this year from the KEET studio to community venues and Eureka High School. Well done, Carol, and many thanks for your dedication to helping the community learn about candidates for the county offices in this primary.

EHS Student Forum

Senior students at Eureka High School conducted a forum for 4th District Supervisorial candidates **Virginia Bass, Jeff Leonard** and **Bonnie Neely**, under the guidance of history teacher and Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) Facilitator **Ron Perry**. **Nicole Chamberlain** and **Tao Vang** moderated, with **Megan Churchill** as timekeeper. The forum was held in the auditorium for all seniors, with questions submitted by the 12th grade Civics and Economics students. **Carol Masterson, Willa Mauro** and I had previously trained the students in their roles. **Theo Zodda** and **Rob Sempell** filmed the forum for Access Humboldt. High marks to all the students and the candidates for participating in this event.

-Nan Nieboer,
Voter Service Director

The Dream Team

Have I told you lately what an honor and a privilege it is for me to arrange and attend these meetings of candidates, sponsors, League members, media people and the rest of the public? I'm sure I get more benefit from Voter Service than anyone. And while it's informative to see the candidates in different settings and great to be asked to go to Willow Creek and Hoopa and Garberville, the best part by far is seeing this beautifully coordinated team of Leaguers at work. Those new to Voter Service were soon hooked and volunteering for more. Veterans were on call when substitutions were necessary. Everyone was gracious when I became discombobulated and scrambled the schedule. Carpooling was used. We get compliments wherever we go. I'm proud and happy to know and work with you all!

Put In

Your



U. S. POSTAGE

VOTE!

Here are my heroes of the season: **Beth Matsumoto, Willa Mauro, Rudy Ramp, Byrd Lochtie, Debby Storre, Danielle Vigil-Masten, Anne Hartline, Nancy Kay, Valerie Eachus, Nan Nieboer, Marilyn Rothe, Helen Hui, Jim Clark, Rosemarie Falor Luis, Audrey Miller, Paula Blackshear, Carole Ziskin, Judy Bennett, John Bennett, Ann Richmond, Barbara Kelly, Bev Post, Sharolyn Hutton, Phyllis Helligas, Kay Escarda, Christina Hutton, Janis Schleunes, and Carol Johnson**. More than half worked at multiple forums, and there were several superstars. You know who you are. Thanks for a great run! See you on the Fourth of July in Eureka, at the North Country Fair in Arcata in September, and right back in the forum business in September and October.

-Carol Masterson,
Candidate Forums

"Look back, to slavery, to suffrage, to integration and one thing is clear. Fashions in bigotry come and go. The right thing lasts."

-Anna Quindlen

News from the LWVUS

DISCLOSE Act Update: 2010 Elections At Stake

The Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United v. FEC has enabled corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts of money in secret to support or oppose candidates. Special interests and corporate lobbyists now have even more opportunities to corrupt our democracy. The House of Representatives is now considering the DISCLOSE Act (H.R. 5175) to require complete disclosure of corporate and union election advertising and that CEOs "stand by their ads" with clear disclaimers. We must act quickly to protect the 2010 elections from being swamped with secret corporate and union money. Will you contact your Representative today?

Special Interests vs. Science

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) has offered a resolution to overturn the Environmental Protection Agency's finding that greenhouse gases cause climate change, undoing an historic agreement made last year with the auto industry to cut pollution and save up to 450 million barrels of oil each year. Big Oil and the politicians who deny climate change are planning to force a vote on the Senate floor soon -- and they could win if we don't act. Please join the League in taking action against this anti-science, pro-special interest legislation -- tell your Senators to protect the Clean Air Act.

News from the LWVC

Berman Initiative

The LWVC opposes the "Berman Initiative," (also known as the Lowenstein Initiative) currently in circulation for signatures for the November 2010 ballot. The initiative would undo Proposition 11 by eliminating the Citizens Redistricting Commission and giving the authority to draw state Assembly, Senate, and State Board of Equalization districts back to the state legislature. When informed of this measure, likely voters are strongly opposed.

LWVC Responds to Critics of Redistricting Application

The LWVC has been responding to critics' misstatements about the redistricting implementation process. We are confident that the process set by the Voters FIRST Act will create a balanced Citizens Redistricting Commission that represents the diversity that is California. The commission will implement a redistricting process that will end the conflict of interest inherent in legislators drawing their own districts, create fair districts that keep communities of interest together, and give Californians a chance to choose their elected representatives instead of being chosen by them.

Leadership Council Report

~Continued from page 2

Three Measures have qualified:

Bond Measure: Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2010. **(LWVC Opposes)**

1377: Changes California Law to Legalize Marijuana and Allow it to Be Regulated and Taxed.

1380: Redistricting of Congressional Districts. **(LWVC No Position Yet)**

Pending Signature Verification:

1394: Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office. **(LWVC Supports)**

1454: Suspends Air Pollution Control Laws Requiring Major Polluters to Report and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions That Cause Global Warming Until Unemployment Drops Below Specified Level for Full Year. **(LWVC Opposes)**

Judged Likely to Submit Signatures and Qualify for the Ballot:

1451: Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting. Consolidates Authority for Redistricting with Elected Representatives. **(LWVC Opposes)**

I also learned some "magic." Membership Growth is Key (MGIK) is a set of techniques for bringing new members into local Leagues and encouraging them to stay. It was developed by the LWVUS in response to a 30-year decline in membership. I found myself envisioning how a membership developed over ninety years will evolve over the next ninety years and how that will translate locally.

Later that evening, the keynote address was given by **Zaida Arguedas**, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Global Democracy Programs for the LWVUS. Her inspiring speech took the audience on a journey abroad as she connected the women's suffrage movement to the recent election of Costa Rica's first female president, **Laura Chinchilla**. I admired her enthusiasm for the League's global role and that the League's values and reputation are viewed with respect throughout the world.

We were back to business the following morning with the adoption of the budget and an overview of program and advocacy work by state leaders. After leaving the Leadership Council exhausted, but inspired by the stamina that my fellow Leaguers have, I felt more connected with the LWVHC and the impact we have not only locally but also around the state. Thank you for this opportunity to learn from League leaders.

-Beth Matsumoto,
Vice President

*The League of Women Voters
of Humboldt County*

Board Briefs...

From the May 3 Board Meeting:

- ☆ President **Sharolyn Hutton** will conduct the final meeting of the 2009-2010 Board on June 7. **Lorey Keele**, 2010-2011 president, will facilitate the retreat for the incoming Board on June 18-19.
- ☆ **Beth Matsumoto** is our delegate to the LWVC Council Meeting in Sacramento on May 15-16.
- ☆ Treasurer **Nancy Kay** announced that thanks to several donations, the SOCL exceeded its goal of \$10,000 in net income by a small amount. The donations helped offset expenses resulting in an unanticipated and unbudgeted increase in fees for the Adorni.
- ☆ Easy Voter Guides have been ordered and will be available through the Humboldt County Library System.
- ☆ President **Sharolyn Hutton** presented a letter to the County Board of Supervisors regarding the public participation policy in the housing element of the General Plan.

-Peg Gardner,
Secretary

434 7th Street, Eureka CA 95501
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** ☆

- PresidentSharolyn Hutton
- Vice President..... Beth Matsumoto
- Past President..... Lorey Keele
- Secretary..... Peg Gardner
- TreasurerNancy Kay
- Director Helen Andrews
- Director Judy Bennett
- Director Byrd Lochtie
- DirectorCarol Masterson
- Director Beth Matsumoto
- Director Willa Mauro
- DirectorNan Nieboer
- Director Sarah Reid
- DirectorAmanda Windsor

☆ **ACTION** ☆

- Government..... Helen Andrews
- Natural Resources..... OPEN
- Social Policy..... Sarah Reid
- Program Director..... OPEN

☆ **ADMINISTRATION** ☆

- Financial Development Director Lois Busey
- Historian..... Carole Ziskin
- Membership.....Judy Bennett, Judi Stoffer
- Nominating Committee Chair.....Nancy Quintrell
- Publications Lorey Keele

☆ **FUNDRAISING** ☆

- Poll Workers CoordinatorCarolyn Otis
- State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL)
Committee Co-Chairs.....Maggie Fleming,
..... Byrd Lochtie
- SOCL Committee Liaison..... Beth Matsumoto

☆ **MEDIA** ☆

- Media ChairAmanda Windsor
- Access Humboldt Rep..... Peg Gardner
- Publicity Director..... Beth Matsumoto
- VOTER Publication.....Amanda Windsor
- VOTER Circulation.....Carolyn Otis
- Webmaster.....Amanda Windsor

☆ **VOTER SERVICE** ☆

- Voter Service DirectorNan Nieboer
- Candidate Forums.....Carol Masterson
- Citizen Education.....Willa Mauro
- Election Service Chair..... Byrd Lochtie
- 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:

- \$60 Individual membership
- \$90 Household membership
- \$60 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.

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

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

www.lwvhc.org - vote@lwvhc.org

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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

June 7 Final 2009-2010 **Board Meeting** 6-8 P.M.
434 7th Street, Eureka

June 8 Election VOTE!!

July 4 **Voter Service Booths**
Eureka Street Fair, 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

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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P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

Editor: Amanda Windsor