



THE VOTER

2006 - THE YEAR OF THE VOTER

Vol. 48 No. 1

A publication of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

January 2006

President's Message ~~~

Shall we Plan?

All of you probably thought the busy holiday season was keeping me out of trouble, but I've found it easy to mull over things like January program planning during my gift buying and candy consumption. Very soon now, many well meaning, talented and ambitious League members will be getting together to hash out the "plan" for the next program year. Unfortunately, I've come to connect this planning process less with planning than with frustration and confusion.

I don't know about you, but I find the title "Program Planning" confusing. When I accepted the position of Program chair a few years ago, I thought I was going to plan programs. Little did I know that Program has nothing to do with programs and more to do with redefining who we are, as a local League, every year.

As I was trying to understand the League definition of planning, I started to study how the rest of the world defines planning. Accustomed to finding most of my information in books, I immediately turned to my dictionary. I liked some of the definitions I found:

Planning is - "The process of choosing the who, what, how, when, and where of goal attainment." So if I apply that concept to League program planning, I come up with a process that would encourage us to set our goals first. Set a plan of action, solicit a commitment from those planning the action, and then work together to see how we can meet our goal using our current positions.

We spend so much time planning and trying to gather the people power to restudy issues that we lose sight of the original goal. I believe that most of the members that show up to plan want to encourage the board to take action on the issues that are important to them, and, we hope, important to the rest of our members and the greater community as well.

Another definition of planning was "*an act of formulating a program for a definite course of action; 'the planning was more fun than the trip itself'*" I believe we put more effort into planning than action when it comes to understanding our positions and how to use them. Maybe we should consider spending our planning time learning how to use the existing positions effectively. I would love to see what we can accomplish.

I propose we create a long term, maybe five-year, plan for our League. Spend less time planning, and more time training and doing. I would also like to see the incoming board start the year with a program that is within the grasp of the membership. Sort of a gift to the new board: an opportunity to start out the year with attainable goals.

Join us for:

LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

Thursday, January 19, 2006

6 to 8 p.m.

Humboldt County Office of Education

Madrone Room

901 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka

Read President Mona's message about planning, bring your 2005 Annual Meeting Kit, and come prepared to look at new and innovative ways to plan our program and set goals for the 2006-2007 year.

Snacks will be provided.

24th Annual Choices Breakfast

The Humboldt County Pro-Choice Coalition, of which the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County is a member, will hold its 24th Annual Choices Breakfast on Friday, January 20, 2006 at the Baywood Country Club, 3600 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata.

The guest speaker this year is **Margaret Crosby, JD** who is an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Northern California. Ms. Crosby will share her insights about current threats to Roe and her experience working with the coalition that successfully fought the recent failed attempt to change California's constitution (Proposition 73).

The cost of the breakfast is \$20.00 in advance, \$22.00 at the door, \$15.00 for students age 25 and under. The doors will open at 7:45 a.m. and the program end at 9:30 a.m. Please make your reservations by Wednesday, January 18 by calling Six Rivers Planned Parenthood at 707-442-2961. Remember seating is limited so get your reservation in early.

Helen Andrews, Coalition Representative

It was noted at a recent League meeting that the positions that we slated to update or restudy this year were positions that were adopted many years ago. When I blocked out the dates the positions were adopted, and reread them with an open mind, it was clear to me that we are swayed into thinking that the positions are out of date just because they are old. The majority of our positions are well written and flexible enough to serve the League for many years to come. Some of the references cited are dated, but they are few and, I hope, easily corrected.

So, when you see the notice to come and join in our "Program Planning", come on down and help to set the goals for the New Year.

Take Care,

Mona

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.
MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!

LWVHC MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*Thank you,
Ed Light!*

The Board wants to thank **Ed Light** for the countless volunteer hours he put into developing and maintaining our League web site. He made it a user-friendly and useful tool for both League members and the public.

Moving into the role as temporary Web master is League member **Alan Richmond**.

Mona Windsor, President

A message from our National President Season's Greetings from the League of Women Voters!

As 2005 comes to an end, it is time to think back on the past year and reflect on the League's actions and accomplishments. Earlier this year, the League launched the **Democracy Agenda**, an effort to strengthen and renew the basic tenets of American democracy. With the Democracy Agenda guiding our work, 2005 has been a successful year.

In an effort to protect our electoral processes through election reform, the League released the **Next Steps on Election Reform** report and started a new project to improve the performance of the election workforce. On the topic of campaign finance reform, we have lobbied hard against efforts to roll back the key reforms included in the **Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act** through letters to Congress; we also supported Presidential Public Financing. In our efforts to improve our redistricting process, we joined with other organizations to press for nonpartisan redistricting reform.

Our work on civil liberties has been impressive: we lobbied hard against the reauthorization of the **USA Patriot Act**, completed the successful **Local Voices** project and we have just begun work on the "**Openness in Government: Looking for the Sunshine**" project.

That is just a small glimpse of our efforts in 2005. What a busy, but fulfilling, year! On behalf of the entire League family, I wish you happy holidays and a happy New Year!

President, LWVUS

Did you know...

December 15 was Bill of Rights Day. The LWVUS put out a press release urging the protection of civil liberties in honor of this day.

2006 - Our 50th Anniversary Year

News From the 50th Anniversary Committee

Happy New Year to everyone! This year promises to be a great one for our League as we plan the yearlong celebration of the birth of LWVHC! All of the committee's plans were approved by the Board and we are happily moving ahead.

First on the agenda: The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has announced that they will honor our League with a special proclamation commemorating the League's 50 years of service to the local community at the Board's Tuesday, January 10 meeting. Please join **President Mona** at that meeting to show our appreciation of the Board of Supervisor's support for all we do. The proclamation should be presented soon after the 9 a.m. start of the meeting.

Also, keep your eyes posted for information about the upcoming sales of a commemorative League Anniversary Pin. Plans will be firmed up in early January for this custom-designed, limited purchase jewelry offer. Purchase priority will be given to LWVHC members, so be on your toes. You don't want to miss out on this opportunity! After all, it's our League and everybody can enjoy new jewelry, can't they?

Anne Hartline, Committee Chair

Do you have...

a human interest story about your years in our League? We are looking for stories for a special issue of our VOTER in February.

We need YOUR story about something from our last 50 years.

Contact me at 442-7187 or Byrdloch@aol.com before January 15th.

Thanks!

Byrd Lochtie, Editor

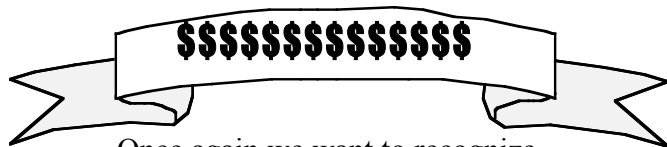
CAN YOU HELP MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK?

We have received a request from **Kelly E. Sanders** in the Humboldt County Elections Department. She is trying to get an early start recruiting new poll workers, especially Inspectors, for the 2006 Primary and General Elections. Many League members have been helping out the Election Department for years. The Primary and General Elections will require many more precinct boards than in the last few elections, and the Election Department reserves - especially for Inspectors - are low. Kelly is asking our help in recruiting new inspectors and poll workers.

This is a short-term commitment. It is intense, with a long day on Election Day and several hours of training and preparation beforehand, but it is extremely satisfying and is truly **Making Democracy Work**. If you have any questions or need additional information, or to volunteer, please contact Kelly.

*Kelly E. Saunders, Administrative Analyst, H. C. Elections Department
3033 H Street, Rm. 20, Eureka, CA 95501, (707) 268-3754*

Editor's Note: I know you have heard that many Leaguers work at the polls and then donate their earnings to the League - a very successful fund raiser for our League. However, it is NOT necessary to donate your salary!



Once again we want to recognize League members who have paid their dues AND made additional contributions at the same time. A big **THANK YOU** to the following people who have made donations to our:

General Fund:

Cheryl Ingham (for 50th Anniversary Events)

HAF Education Fund:

Kathryn Corbett

We have received poll worker donations from **Rudy Ramp, Judy Longshore and Byrd Lochtie.**

We also received a generous donation from a nonmember, **Ann Hunt.**

THANK YOU ALL for your GENEROSITY!

Board Briefs

In December your Board:

- Approved all of the planned activities for the 2006 yearlong celebration of our 50th Anniversary.
- Heard that the Board of Supervisors will present a special proclamation to the LWVHC on January 10, 2006, in honor of our 50th birthday in 2006.
- Discussed Program Planning meetings.
- Discussed the next LWVC Energy Update meeting in February.
- Approved a thank you in the VOTER to **Ed Light** for all his work on our League web site.
- Made final plans for the Holiday Party on Dec 15.

JOIN THE LEAGUE

Membership in the League is open to all citizens over 18, both women and men. Associate membership is open to those under 18 and to non-citizens **Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County to become part of your voice for citizens and a force for change.**

I enclose:

- \$50.00 - One year individual membership. Renewal _____
- \$75.00 - Household membership (two people/one address)
- \$50.00 - Associate membership
- Additional donation of \$ _____.
- I am unable to join the League at this time, but I enclose a donation of \$ _____.
- Please send me more information.
- I would like to be contacted by the Nominating Committee.

NAME/NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING) e-MAIL _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY
P.O. BOX 3219, EUREKA, CA 95502

Membership dues and donations to the League of Women Voters are not deductible as a personal or business expense for tax purposes. Donations to the LWVHC-EDUCATION FUND or SCHOLARSHIP FUND, through the Humboldt Area Foundation, are tax-deductible. For more information call 444-9151

**The League of Women Voters
of Humboldt County**
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502
Room #103, 539 G Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707-444-9252
www.lwvhc.org/vote

Please note that we are no longer listing members' phone numbers and e-mails in the VOTER because it is distributed to more than just our members. Members in good standing receive the complete Membership Roster in the Annual Meeting Kit in April. This new policy is in response to concerns about privacy and confidentiality.

If you have any questions, please call the League phone and leave a message. A board member will get back to you as quickly as possible.

WHO'S WHO IN THE LEAGUE 2005-2006

*Denotes Board Member

President: *Mona Windsor

Past President: *Byrd Lochtie

Vice-President: *Judy Tetrault

Secretary: *Lupe Lovio-Marlett

Treasurer: *Lois Busey

Membership: *Sarah Turner

Hospitality Chair: *Sarah Turner

Nominating Committee Chair: Nancy Kay

Financial Development Director:

Poll Volunteers Coordinator: Carolyn Otis

State of the Community: Maggie Fleming

LWVHC-Ed Fund: Kathryn Corbett

Voters Service Director:

Candidate & Issues Forums: *Carol Masterson

Voters Service: Carole Ziskin
Georgia Vasilakis

Communications Director:

Publications: Lorey Keele

Calling Committee Chair: *Pat Charley

Voter Publication: *Byrd Lochtie

Voter Circulation: Carolyn Otis

Web master: Alan Richmond

Historian: Judy Bennett

Public Relations: Amanda Windsor

50th Anniversary Committee Chair: *Anne Hartline

Program Director: *Judy Tetrault

Action Chair: *Jan Matthews

Government: *Patricia Charley

Social Policy: *Jesse Tunnell

Natural Resources: *Jan Matthews

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Office: Room #103, 539 G Street, Eureka, across 6th Street from Wells Fargo Bank. Phone: 444-9252

JANUARY 2006

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				

FEBRUARY 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

2006-The Year of the Voter-LWVHC 50th Anniversary Year

January 2006

- Jan 3 LWVHC Board meeting, League office, Room #103, 539 G Street, 6-8 p.m.
- Jan 10 Board of Supervisors present **Special Proclamation to LWVHC**, Supervisors' Chambers, Humboldt County Courthouse, 5th Street, Eureka, 9 a.m. p. 2
- Jan 19 **LWVHC General Membership Meeting**, Local Program Planning, 2006-2007 Program, Madrone Room, Humboldt County Office of Education, 901 Myrtle Avenue, 6-8:30 p.m. (*Bring your 2005 Annual Meeting Kit*) p. 1
- Jan 20 Humboldt County Pro-Choice Coalition 24th Annual **Choices Breakfast**, Baywood Country Club, 3600 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, 8-9:30 a.m. p. 1

February 2006

- Feb 7 LWVHC Board meeting, League office, Room #103, 539 G Street, 6-8 p.m.
- Feb 16 **LWVHC General Membership Program Meeting, LWVHC Energy Position Update-Part 2**, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, 510 Fifth Street, Eureka, 6-8:30 p.m.

For changes to the calendar - and lots of other information! - check out our League website at www.lwvhc.org/vote.

Find voter information for your residence at smartvoter.org

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County Diversity Policy 2005-2006

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 the 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 decisionmaking. The LWVHC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, board and programs.

The Voter

January 2006

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County
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