

President's Message

Dear Members:

I hope you had happy and joyful Thanksgiving time with your family and/or friends. We spent time with our grandkids and the sources of their genes on the East coast. It is always a pleasure to watch young people grow and change. Let's hope their future will be as good or better than ours.

November was a good month for the League. At our November 7th Board meeting **Anne Hartline** and **Kelly Sanders**, our County Clerk-Recorder, whose office manages local elections, spoke about the possibilities for same day voter registration to help increase our voter numbers. This was partly in response to a request from another local group that was responding to a national request for same day registration. According to this other local group, "California is 49th out of 50 states in the percentage of eligible voters who register." We learned that same day registration is available in Humboldt County at the County Office of Elections on Election Day and that voters can conditionally vote. Information about conditional voting, including who is eligible to vote conditionally, is available on the county's web site (<http://www.humboldt.gov/2343/Conditional-Voting>). Since not all voters will have easy access to the Office of Elections (located on the Humboldt Plaza: 2426 6th Street Eureka, CA 95501-0788) the League needs to continue its good efforts to register voters throughout our county. We also discussed that voters will be registered next year when they apply for or renew a driver license at the Department of Motor Vehicles data unless they opt-out.

On a related note, you may be interested in a November 23 North Coast Journal article about diversity in the media authored by Sean McLaughlin and me <https://m.northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/democracy-needs-diverse-local-media/Content?oid=6965795>.

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.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

The League of Women Voters Palos Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro has recommended that the national League (LWVUS) develop a position on artificial intelligence so that the League can make statements and recommendations about the social consequences of this powerful new technology. I plan to put this on our January Board agenda so if you have ideas, please let me or other members of the Board have your advice.

Our December Board meeting and Membership holiday party will be held at **Mary Lou Lowry's** home (1611 I Street, Arcata). The meeting begins at 5:30 and the party at 6PM. If you attend, please bring some food to help us celebrate.

Isn't it amazing that we are about to begin 2018. This year has gone very quickly, but that could be an indication of my age. Have a great holiday and let's work hard together to increase voter numbers for 2018. The 2018 elections are going to be very important for our state and country and perhaps the world.

More information about the artificial intelligence position can be found on page 2 of this Voter.

Rollin C. Richmond
President

Sea Level Rise By Elaine Weinreb

In late October, about 75 people from the League and the general public learned about the discomfiting facts of sea level rise, and about how one of our local communities is planning to deal with it.

Dr. Linda "Diz" Swift, a geologist who is the Climate Change Director for the League of Women Voters in California, journeyed up to Eureka to share the scientific data that she has been collecting for decades about this threat to our society. She was followed by Susan Diehl McCarthy, a planner for the City of Arcata, on the steps that Arcata is currently taking to deal with sea level rise.

Dr. Swift explained that the ocean rises and falls in response to the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Sea levels have been rising and falling for hundreds of millions of years, but over the past few decades, as humans put more and more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, the rate of warming has accelerated so much that we could be facing catastrophe within a hundred years, as our coastal communities get covered by the sea. Much of Arcata was built on wetlands reclaimed from the sea, and eventually the sea will take them back.

As a society, we are finally beginning to make the changes needed to soften the impacts of this now-inevitable sea level rise. Some of the changes are technological and involve putting less carbon dioxide in the air through efficient energy usage, and conversion to electric cars. Others are social changes, such as creating city plans that encourage public transportation and walking; re-zoning areas that will be under water; and restoring wetlands to their natural state.

For more detail about the science behind these conclusions, please refer to the slides presented by Dr. Swift. They are on the LWV website, at

http://lwvhc.org/files/Sea_Level_Rise.pdf

Ms. McCarthy then described Arcata's three-pronged approach to planning a city that may be largely under water in a hundred years. The first prong is called "Protect and Defend", involving hardening and diking essential facilities such as the wastewater treatment plant. The second prong is "Planned Retreat," moving the town gradually uphill over the next hundred years, while much of the coastline returns to its original state of salt marsh. The third prong is "Accommodate", finding ways to live with chronically high water levels.

The city is also encouraging citizens to get involved in scientific studies, such as documenting king tides through photographs.

Dr. Swift praised Ms. McCarthy for Arcata's futuristic thinking, and subsequently recommended that the City of Berkeley get some ideas from Arcata.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STUDY: AI TODAY, AI TOMORROW

Can you remember when computers were not common? Now computers are everywhere and we don't think much about them. This technology --when it took off-- suddenly became a major part of our lives. Right now Artificial Intelligence (AI), defined as the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs, able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence such as perception, speech recognition and decision making is growing into the stage of taking off and as it does, it will probably become an even more ubiquitous part of our lives.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STUDY:
AI TODAY, AI TOMORROW (Continued)**

As with all new technology - some is good and some is amazing, but some has the potential to be threatening. When Artificial Intelligence fully blooms it will impact our lives in myriad ways. It will be great to have transportation that gets us where we want to be without needing to drive—the possibility of fewer accidents is wonderful. AI will make life safer in many ways—but what about war machines that run themselves and do not need human input. Will that make us safer? Will we be safe or will war machines and crime machines make life unsafe? Many are suggesting that ethical rules need to be considered in controlling this powerful technology. Perhaps intelligent machines should not be able to kill? (They already can- as *60 Minutes* showed). Economically ---what jobs will there be—will we need any? Will our friendly family robot do all the house chores—keep our elders company, take care of the young? What will happen to our tax base?

Washington has yet to think about the impact of this technology on our society. We need to have a big national discussion — what rules should there be and who gets to set them. The full impact of Artificial Intelligence is not here yet but it is approaching faster than you think. And we have not considered much about it.

The League has always been at the front edge of studying issues that are important to us. Currently we have no study that addresses many of the issues of how this technology will impact us. Let’s do a study now so that as congress becomes more aware and starts to make laws—we can also have a voice based on a thoughtful consideration of how this technology should interact with us and what will be best for all of us.

We look forward to hearing from you on this very important topic.

Become a Member!

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

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.

Annual Dues are due each year on July 1.

Visit www.LWVHC.org or mail the form below!

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:

- \$75 Individual membership
- \$105 Household membership
-
- Please accept my donation of _____
- Please send me more information
-

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Please make checks payable to LWVHC, P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502.

The Language of the League by Leslie Leach

The League of Women Voters is an entity large enough and important enough to have acquired its own vocabulary as well as incorporating some well-known terms and acronyms.

Following are the words and definitions continued from the “R” – “W” section (the end) of the Glossary of Terms used by the League of Women Voters from the booklet *Writing for League* by the LWVC:

RECORDER: A League member who takes notes during the consensus discussions at meetings to document the majority and minority views expressed and to summarize areas of agreement.

SCOPE: An expanded, detailed description of an adopted study that goes beyond the brief topic statement.

STUDY: The process of gathering information on a specific issue for discussion by members and subsequent consensus to establish positions. Studies are conducted at all levels of League.

UNIT: Also referred to as “unit meeting” or “discussion unit.” A regularly scheduled meeting of a small group of members to obtain and discuss information. Study presentations and consensus discussions are usually held at unit meetings. Larger Leagues may have several unit meetings at which the same material is presented to each unit. Unit meetings are open to the public, but only members may determine consensus.

UPDATE: Communication from the LWVC which is sent periodically to all local League presidents by e-mail or in hard copy, voters service, and other activities of the LWVC/LWVCEF.

Also:

UPDATE: A study of limited scope to reevaluate existing positions considering new information, changed circumstances and/conflict with another position. Any new position resulting from an update is approved by the appropriate board and adopted by the delegates to convention or the members at annual meeting. Updates may be undertaken at any level of the League.

VERTICAL POSITION: National, state, or inter-League organization positions which may be used as the basis for action at other levels of League without prior permission.

WORKSHOP: A training session given by any level of the League to develop members’ skills and expertise or to provide additional information in area of the League’s concern.

Continuing Discussion on the Budget by Michele Fell

At the Annual Meeting in May, 2017, League members asked that Local Finance be included as a 2017-2018 ‘area of emphasis’. After a review of our Local Finance position (last updated in 1980), a panel discussion was identified as the most effective means of approaching this complex and important topic. On November 16th, Greg Sparks (Eureka City Manager), Chris Shaver (Assistant County Administrative Officer) and Marcella Clem (Executive Director, Humboldt County Association of Governments) addressed approximately 20 League members and guests. Panelists provided summaries of the resources over which they have jurisdiction; how those funds are collected; how they are distributed and to whom. Handouts and information regarding how the public can use online resources for more information were provided. Following the presentations, the panelists answered questions from the audience. For League members who were unable to attend the program, more information regarding local finance can be found at ci.eureka.ca.gov, humboldt.gov.org, and hcaog.net.

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

434 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502
www.lwvhc.org vote@lwvhc.org
**Who's Who on Your League Board
2017-18**

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

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**Who's Who on Your League Board
2017-18**

ADMINISTRATION

President.....Rollin Richmond
Vice President.....Michelle Fell-Casale
Secretary.....Patricia-Anne WinterSun
Treasurer.....Deborah Downs
Director.....Leslie Leach
Director.....Byrd Lochtie
Director.....Carol Masterson
Director.....Judy Bennett
Director.....Anne Hartline
Director.....Becky Simpson
Director.....Kathy Johanson
Director.....Celeste Ruiz
Director.....Julie Kelly
Director.....Mary Lou Lowry
Director.....Keith Snow-Flamer
Director.....Elaine Weinreb

PORTFOLIO DIRECTORS

Government.....Julie Kelly
Natural Resources.....Leslie Leach
.....& Elaine Weinreb
Social Policy.....Mary Lou Lowry
ProgramMichelle Fell-Casale
Governance Chair.....Byrd Lochtie
Historian.....Vacant
Membership.....Becky Simpson
Nominating Committee Chair.....Alex Stillman
Publications.....Lorey Keele
Communications Support.....Kathy Johanson

FUNDRAISING

Marathon Fundraiser.....Kay Escarda
Poll Workers Fundraiser.....Carolyn Otis
State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL)
Committee Chair.....Judy Bennett

COMMUNICATIONS

Access Humboldt Rep.....Elaine Weinreb
Social Media.....Kathy Johanson
Website.....Kathy Johanson
VOTER Publication.....Keith Snow-Flamer
VOTER Circulation.....Carolyn Otis

VOTER SERVICE

Voter Service Director.....Becky Simpson
Candidate Forums.....Carol Masterson
Citizen Education.....Judy Bennett
Election Service.....Byrd Lochtie



P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

Get Involved!

We all have a unique set of skills to contribute and limited time to give. Working together we become a viable force for change. Call or email today to say you want to participate.

Visit www.lwvhc.org or call (707) 444-9252.

Our Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. Not only shall there be no barriers to membership and participation in the LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, nor political affiliation, but also the LWVHC will actively seek to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, board and programs.

Making Democracy Work!

LWVHC Calendar

Tuesday, December 5 Holiday Party
Time: 6-7:30 pm
Location: Private Member's Home in Arcata

Tuesday, January 2 Monthly Board Meeting
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: 434 7th Street, Eureka

Sunday, January 21 National Program Planning
Time: TBD
Location: TBD

Tuesday, February 6 Monthly Board Meeting
Time: 5:30 pm
Location: 434 7th Street, Eureka

Thursday, February 15 Membership Meeting
Time: TBD
Location: TBD

Friday, April 20 State of the Community Luncheon
Time: Noon
Location: The Adorni Center

Thursday, May 24 Annual Meeting
Time: TBD
Location: TBD
Please go to the LWVHC website for updated information:
www.LWVHC.org
