

President's Message

Greetings,

I would like to start by giving thanks to all who participated in organizing the State of the Community Luncheon, 2017. This event was filled-to-capacity and gave a heartfelt meaning to **Marianne Pennekamp** and Access Humboldt, recognized for their contributions to our community.

I believe that we also created a stronger bond as we were able to realize how strong and connected we really are within our community.

As our Annual Meeting approaches, I would encourage all of you to attend. This is a wonderful time to get to know other League members as well as the members on the board. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Celeste Ruiz
Acting President

Save the Date

Thursday, May 18

Annual Membership Meeting

**Humboldt Area
Foundation**

6 PM

\$10 for dinner

**Send your check in now,
or use Paypal on the
LWVHC website.**



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!

State of the Community Luncheon a Resounding Success!

by Judy Bennett

It was outstanding, another wonderful State of the Community Luncheon, our 26th to be exact. Amazingly we sold out the event again, and we turned off Pay-Pal days before the event. We filled the Adorni to capacity—400. We even made the front page of the *Times Standard* on Saturday, April 8, though **Byrd Lochtie** has become **Judy Bennett**. You need to see the picture caption!

For those of you unable to attend, the recipients this year were Access Humboldt and **Marianne Pennekamp** for her incredible work with children and families. Julie Fulkerson was the keynote speaker. She had inspiring words about inclusiveness in our community. Virginia Bass, Chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, asked us to think about all that's positive in our county and made a plea for affordable rentals. It was easy to feel good about Humboldt County after listening to our speakers.

The committee members excelled in their duties, and I want to thank them all: **Nancy Kay** and **Judy Stoffer**, steering committee chairs who helped us achieve a gross income of over \$27,000; **Lorey Keele** for organizing all the printed materials from solicitation letters to the event program; **Sharolyn Hutton** for arrangements, making certain we had enough chairs, tables, and food; **Nancy Frost** for all the lovely decorations that she designed and helped create; **Debbe Hartridge** for all the publicity so everyone knew what we were doing; **Byrd Lochtie** for interviewing and introducing our recipients and giving wonderful talks telling us about each of them; **Kay Escarda** for always finding a wonderful keynote speaker and arranging for the chair of the board of Supervisors to give the "state of the community" address; **Deborah Downs** for keeping track of our income and expenses; **Kathy Johanson** for booking our meeting sites, and we have many meetings. It's an efficient and delightful group of Leaguers whom I am proud to call my friends and whom I now refer to as the Dream Team. And finally, a special thanks to **Celeste Ruiz**, who has stepped in for our President **Rollin Richmond** so many times now. Her presentation about League was outstanding.

Let's see if we can do as well next year, April 27, 2018 at the Adorni Center. See you there!



Byrd Lochtie with Marianne Pennekamp, recipient of the LWVHC Civic Contribution Award



The Dream Team: (back row) Kay Escarda, Byrd Lochtie, Sharolyn Hutton, Deborah Downs, Nancy Kay, and Kathy Johanson; (front row) Judy Bennett, Debbe Hartridge, and Lorey Keele; (seated) Nancy Frost.



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Please Attend the Annual Meeting

by Judy Bennett

Annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18 at 6:00 PM, so let's make it fun. By now, you should have received your annual meeting kit. This year, our dinner will be catered by Cassaro's Catering, and our League board has decided to pick up some of the costs. Members are asked to pay only \$10 which does not cover the entire cost of their meal. We are having the meeting at the Humboldt Area Foundation, Emmerson Room, thanks to Deborah Downs, our League treasurer. Please plan to attend: send in your check or make a Paypal payment now.

For those new to the League, annual meeting gives the League members an opportunity to elect officers, directors, and a nominating committee; to adopt program; to adopt a budget; and to consider and vote on bylaws changes, **as well as proposed changes in, deletions of, and additions to our local positions.**

Annual meeting is the League's shareholders meeting. It's held once a year sometime in the month of May, a bylaws stipulation. And for those new and those not so new to the League, it's an opportunity to have fun, visit with friends, and find out what's happening in the world of the League.

The League of Women Voters does not require attendance, but annual meeting requires a quorum of our membership and is the one time the League truly needs you to be there and vote. Member participation is the key to a successful annual meeting.

The annual meeting is the best opportunity for members to express their thoughts and feelings about the action our League takes through the course of the year. Our recent panels about the General Plan Update stem from the concern and request of members at last year's annual meeting. What concerns do you have that you would like the League to address? Make your voice heard; attend annual meeting and bring your annual meeting kit.

History Day Event and Awards

by Kathy Johanson

LWVHC has been pleased to participate in the Humboldt County History Day for the past few years. Each February, students in fourth grade through high school compete in Humboldt County History Day, held at Humboldt State University. Through the rigorous process of researching and preparing creative and original History Day projects, students learn about and analyze issues, ideas, people, and events in history. This year's theme is *Taking a Stand in History*. Students chose from several categories to explore the theme, and they chose to work independently or in a group. Local projects are selected to advance to State History Day in May.

This year, League Board Members **Mary Lou Lowry**, **Julie Kelly**, and **Becky Simpson** reviewed the projects in February and awarded nine gift certificates from a local bookstore to top projects that highlighted either civil, voters', or women's rights in some way. Working in collaboration with the Rising Star Foundation during the Super Judging/Coaching event for Humboldt History Day Champions on April 5, **Byrd Lochtie** and I reviewed the continuing projects and participated in discussions for travel awards offered by Rising Star, Arcata Rotary, and a few individual donors. It's a wonderful way to be supportive of the students and their coaches while highlighting the League's mission.

We assisted four students this year with League travel scholarships: *Geneva Samuelson*, Redwood Prep Charter, Suffragettes: Taking a Vote, Junior Historical Paper; *Emma Miller and Kaylee Gomes*, McKinleyville High School, Title IX: Bernice Sandler, Birch Bayh, Patsy Mink, and Edith Green Stand for Gender Equality in Higher Education, Senior Group Documentaries; *Cicely Jones*, Fieldbrook Elementary School, Legalizing Love, Junior Individual Website.

We wish all the students good luck in the state competition and look forward to their results!

Welcome New League Members



Teresa Clark
Aria Cox
Cynthia Denbo
Erin Dunn
Pamela Garrett
Robert Lawton

Martin Lay
Gwen Neu
L C Shinazy
Alison Talbott
Michelle Vassel
Christine White



General Plan Update Process Panel "Phase TWO" by Nancy Kay

Thursday, April 27, the League held its second and final meeting in response to the League membership's request to look at the General Plan Update process. The first meeting's panel in March was convened to address what caused the delays in our County's update process. This second panel was asked to discuss how the General Plan Update process can be improved in the future.

Panel members included John Woolley (former County Supervisor), Martha Spencer (former member of the County Planning Department), Craig Compton (Green Diamond Director of Land Management) and Larry Glass (former Eureka City Councilperson and current President of the Northcoast Environmental Center). As was the first panel, this panel was instructed to focus on the process, and not the results, of the General Plan Update.

League research revealed that Humboldt County's General Plan Update (GPU) process took an exceedingly long time, compared to the 14 rural counties, selected at random, that the League reviewed. Humboldt County is working under the oldest General Plan of those reviewed, with a 1984 date of completion, and with no completed update. Santa Cruz County had the second oldest General Plan, with a 1994 date of completion. Two of the counties reviewed updated the various Elements of their General Plans incrementally. The other counties were all working under General Plans that were completed after 2000.

Some of the panelists' opinions of our County's process included the following:

- Our communities are very diverse. "We are like a bunch of islands connected by a highway," (Craig Compton), and, thus, we have many divergent opinions, which will cause delays.
- Individual elements of the General Plan can be updated incrementally; a total overhaul of the General Plan is too cumbersome. However, incremental updates may be challenging, as some elements can affect other elements.
- Community input would be improved simply by a shortened period of update. Deadlines for individual elements, such as the mandated

Housing Element deadline imposed by the State, may be counterproductive.

- The Planning Department is not understaffed for General Plan updates, especially with the possibility of employing consultants to assist, if needed.

Humboldt County's General Plan Update is likely near completion. It was submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval in 2012. The final step in the GPU process is the Environmental Impact report, or EIR. The original draft EIR was submitted in June, 2012. In June of 2016, a consultant was hired to revise the draft, which was completed very recently, on April 20. A 45-day comment period on the EIR will continue through June 9, 2017.

It has been a real pleasure working with **Kay Escarda, Judy Bennett, and Elaine Weinreb** on this project. Emails and phone calls between these intelligent and dedicated women track an enthusiasm for excellence and respect for the League. We hope that we accomplished what the membership requested, which was to look at the General Plan Update process. I think we learned a great deal from our panelists!

League Sends Updated Healthcare Memo to U.S. House by Chris Carson, LWVUS President

The League sent an [updated memo](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives regarding legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The memo reiterates the League's support for quality affordable health care for all Americans, protections for those with preexisting conditions and prevention of discriminatory costs for women. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will also be delivering the memo to select offices on the Hill.

Please continue to use [our resources page](#) on the League Management Site for talking points and a template Letter to the Editor.

Please note, the LTE template is at the very bottom of the resources page, identified as [aca_repeal_lte_04072017.doc](#) or you can use Ctrl/Click on this link for the template to appear on your computer.

Senate Bill 415: How It Effects Local Elections by Keith Snow-Flamer

Senate Bill (SB) 415 “California Voter Participation Rights Act” was passed in 2015, but does not become law until January, 2018. The bill will prohibit local public entities from holding any future elections in odd-numbered years if holding an election in an odd-numbered year results in a “significant decrease in voter turnout” compared to the turnout in an even-numbered year. SB 415 authorizes a voter in a district that fails to comply with the requirement (by switching to an even-year cycle) to file a lawsuit to enforce the new law’s requirements. The voter, if he or she wins the lawsuit, can collect reasonable attorney’s fees and court costs if court intervention is necessary. (Elections Code 14054)

There are a number of requirements that 10404.7 imposes:

The board of supervisors must notify all school districts and the county board of education of the receipt of the resolution to consolidate the district’s election with other statewide elections and must request input from each district and the county board on the effect of the consolidation.

Within 60 days from the date of the school district’s submission of its resolution, the board of supervisors must approve the resolution unless it finds that its ballot style, voting equipment, or computer capacity is such that additional elections or materials cannot be handled as part of a statewide election. (Your elections official should be able to determine that, but it’s highly unlikely that that will be an issue.)

Prior to the adoption of a resolution approving or denying a consolidation request, the board or boards of supervisors may obtain from the elections official a report on the cost-effectiveness of the proposed action.

Public notices of the proceedings in which the resolution is to be considered for adoption are to be posted at the county Board’s meeting place (much like its Brown Act notice), and the clerk of that board must post the notice at two public places in the county besides that location or in an electronic format on its website.

Within 30 days after approval of the resolution by the board of supervisors, the elections official is to notify all registered voters of the district(s) affected by the consolidation of the board’s approval of the resolution, at the school district’s expense.

The new election day, established by this process, as provided in 1302 shall occur not less than one month, nor more than 12 months, subsequent to the former election day for the district.

If the election day for a school district board is adjusted using this process, the terms of office of all then-incumbent members of that board are automatically extended.

Help Wanted by Elaine Weinreb

The League keeps a scrapbook of its events that make it into the media. Because we don’t have a paid staff, we rely on you, our members, to help. If you see anything in a local newspaper about the League of Women Voters, please clip it out and either

- mail it to the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502
- or leave it at the LWV office, 434 7th Street,

Eureka.

The building is open weekdays from 8:30 to 4:30. The League office is on the second floor and is always unlocked. You can just leave your clipping on the desk.

Internet Privacy Workshops Held by Access Humboldt

by Elaine Weinreb

If you ask most people what the biggest threat on the internet is, they would probably say thieves and hackers. But another threat to privacy has recently arisen, now that the government has made it legal for your internet service provider to sell all the data that it collects about you.

Access Humboldt, an organization honored at this year's LWVHC's State of the Community Luncheon, recently promoted a series of Sunshine Week events, devoted to the free flow of information, as well as what should be public and what should be private. Access Humboldt hosted three workshops on this topic. All three featured the renowned constitutional lawyer Shahid Buttar of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, who specializes in privacy issues. One of the workshops included a panel discussion with Eureka Police Chief Andy Mills and *North Coast Journal* News Editor, Thaddeus Greenson.

The panel discussion focused on a recent case involving the video made by a Eureka police officer during the course of a controversial arrest. The *Journal* wanted access to the video; the City of Eureka denied access on the grounds of the officer's privacy, and a court case resulted. A vigorous discussion followed on the pro's and con's of government surveillance and the rights of the public to have access to this information. Ironically, police body cameras were initially thought to protect the public from excessive police force, but since the cameras are pointed out at the public and away from the officer, they often result in diminishing public privacy without revealing the officer's actions

Another problem is the mass of video data collected. While collecting massive amounts of data is easy, examining it and processing it is time-consuming and expensive. Mills said that he lacked the personnel to examine all the data collected. Buttar replied that the city should have considered the cost of processing the data before deciding to buy into the technology.

Buttar also conducted two workshops at the HSU Library and at the Access Humboldt studio about maintaining privacy in the digital age.¹ Some communities are actively resisting invasions of personal privacy by the government. In Santa Clara County, before purchasing any surveillance equipment, there must be

public discussion about it beforehand and an annual disclosure as to how the equipment was used and the city's cost of using the equipment. The city of Berkeley passed a series of policies that limit intelligence collection and require a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity before police officers can collect such information. Berkeley also restricts the cooperation of police officers with immigration enforcement agencies and restricts cooperation with any federal efforts to build a national biometric database.

Many people feel that they have nothing to hide and therefore do not need to worry about their digital privacy. Buttar pointed out that without the guarantee of privacy, the ability to hold or express dissenting opinions is threatened. "Privacy is the guardian of dissent, and through dissent we get democracy," he said. He then listed a number of programs that people can use to protect their own digital privacy, which he referred to as "digital hygiene." Digital hygiene protects the user not only from unwanted government surveillance, but from casual snoops and from thieves and hackers who can use surveillance equipment to plant malware on mobile devices. Such digital hygiene programs include "What'sApp," "Signal," and a variety of virtual private networks.

With any of these programs, however, there is a trade-off between security and convenience. You can encrypt the entire content of your computer, but you'll have a big problem if you lose or forget the master password that controls this encryption.

The League has long taken a strong stance on the protection of civil liberties in the digital age, and "supported legislation that would protect personal information of citizens." In 2009, the League joined other organizations in support of the JUSTICE (Judiciously Using Surveillance Tools In Counterterrorism Efforts) Act, legislation to amend expiring provisions of the US PATRIOT Act.²

Hopefully, the League will carefully consider the challenges to individual liberty that may soon emerge when Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act expires this December.³

¹To view these online, go to [https://archive.org/details/access_humboldt?and\[\]=Sunshine%20Week](https://archive.org/details/access_humboldt?and[]=Sunshine%20Week) and search for Sunshine Week.

²See <https://lwvc.org/position/individual-liberties>

³See https://judiciary.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/115-2_24726.pdf

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.

Following are the words and definitions from the "B - C" section of the Glossary of Terms Used by the League of Women Voters from the booklet Writing for League by the LWVC:

BRIEFING: A training session held prior to unit meetings to prepare discussion leaders, resource persons, and/or study committee members and others for presentation and discussion of the subject to be presented at units. The term "briefings" is also used for meetings held to prepare for conventions, legislative interviews, and ballot measure presentations

CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act

COALITION: An alliance of organizations acting jointly for a limited and well-defined goal. A coalition has a formal structure, established guidelines, a budget, and is usually temporary. Member organizations are committed to action in the name of the coalition. Organizations may form an action coalition for the duration of a ballot measure campaign, a voters service coalition, or an informational coalition to develop and exchange ideas and material on their common goal.

CONCURRENCE: Substantial member agreement reached through group discussion based on information presented by a study committee or through other methods of member response. Members are asked to concur or agree with a statement. A concurrence statement may be a position held by another League or a decision statement recommended by a League board or study committee. **The statement must be approved or rejected as written.** Concurrence is not the same as consensus.

CONSENSUS: Substantial member agreement preferably reached through group discussion. Consensus is the "sense of the group" rather than a majority opinion. It is not necessarily unanimous and is expressed in terms of rather broad objectives. The discussion is based on information prepared by a study committee and is guided by consensus questions.

Only members may participate in determining consensus.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS: Specific questions prepared by a study committee to stimulate interaction, focus discussion, and facilitate conclusions by the group. Questions vary in style from open-ended to multiple choice. Questions are approved in advance by the appropriate League board.

CONVENTION: A biennial meeting held by the LWVC, the LWVUS, and most inter-League organizations at which delegates make decisions affecting League goals and operations. The convention elects officers, amends bylaws, and adopts a budget, positions, and studies.

COUNCIL: A biennial meeting held by the LWVC, the LWVUS, and sometimes an inter-League organization (ILO) held between biennial conventions and attended by a small number of delegates (primarily League presidents). Council adopts a budget and provides delegates an opportunity to exchange ideas in a less formal setting than convention. In an emergency, council can adopt a study as provided in the bylaws.

COUNTY COUNCIL: A structure less formal than a recognized inter-League organization through which all Leagues in a county coordinate study, action, and voters service at the county level. It operates under a statement of agreement rather than bylaws. Action approved by the boards of member Leagues is taken in the name of the county. Members of the council are usually the presidents of the local Leagues in the county.

"It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union... Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less."

-Susan B. Anthony

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 aged 16 and up.

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:

- ☐ \$60 Individual membership
- ☐ \$90 Household membership
- ☐ \$60 Associate membership
- ☐ Please accept my donation of _____
- ☐ Please send me more information
- ☐ I am interested in becoming a board member

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

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

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
(707) 444-9252

Who's Who in Your League Board**ADMINISTRATION**

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Vice President Celeste Ruiz
Past President Kathy Johanson
Secretary Patricia-Anne WinterSun
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Director Judy Bennett
Director Anne Hartline
Director Nancy Kay
Director Julie Kelly
Director Leslie Leach
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Historian Elaine Weinreb
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Publications Lorey Keele
Communications Support Kathy Johanson

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

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Access Humboldt Rep. Elaine Weinreb
Social Media ... Kathy Johanson and Celeste Ruiz
Website Kathy Johanson
VOTER Publication Leslie Leach
VOTER Circulation Carolyn Otis

VOTER SERVICE

Voter Service Director Becky Simpson
Candidate Forums Carol Masterson
Community Education Nancy Kay
Election Service Byrd Lochtie

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P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

Get Involved!

We all have a unique set of skills to contribute and limited time to afford. 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

Tue., May 2 5:30 PM	Board Meeting League Office 434 7th St., Eureka
Sun. May 7	Avenue of the Giants Marathon
Thurs., May 18 6 PM	Annual Membership Meeting Humboldt Area Foundation
Tue., June 6 5:30 PM	Board Meeting League Office 434 7th St., Eureka
