

***Report on Official Board
Actions at the March 10, 2026
Meeting***

At our March 10, 2026 meeting, the LWVHC Board took following “official actions”:

Support for Access Humboldt:
It was moved / seconded and passed by a unanimous vote that the LWVHC Board write a letter of support for Access Humboldt’s grant applications to fund new studio space.

Support for Illuminate! 2026:
It was moved / seconded and passed by a unanimous vote that the LWVHC donate \$1000 from our Humboldt Area Foundation Educational Funds to Access Humboldt for the Illuminate! 2026 event to support their work in education and training of local journalists.

Bonnie Oliver
LWVHC Secretary

Happy Spring



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.

***Save the Date!
Annual Meeting on June 3***

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026
SEQUOIA CONFERENCE CENTER, ROOM A
6 pm REGISTRATION
6:30 pm DINNER \$10
7 pm BUSINESS MEETING (NO CHARGE)
ZOOM is also available for those that cannot attend

PLEASE RESERVE BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

A reservation made is a reservation paid. For those attending only the business meeting, there will be no charge, but please reserve for a quorum count!

For more information, call Becky Simpson at (707) 498-6340 or email simpson2.rebecca@gmail.com

Please pay by check to:
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HUMBOLDT COUNTY
P. O. 3219
EUREKA, CA. 95502

The League needs YOU!

Be sure to attend the ANNUAL MEETING in person or by ZOOM

Welcome New and Returning Members

**Gael Dougherty
Margaret Draper
Brittany Gonzales
Suzanne McClurkin-Nelson
Sherman Shapiro
Roseann Thomas**



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

The LWVHC cordially invites you to our Annual State of the Community Luncheon

Maggie Fleming, Chair

Tess Coffman

Kay Escarda

Anne Hartline

Kathy Johanson

Lorey Keele

Byrd Lochtie

Carolyn Prescott

Connie Smith

Judith Stoffer

Anne Wasson

The League of Women Voters will be honoring:

Marilyn Tucker
Community Volunteer



Betty and Gene Senestraro
Community Volunteers

Master of Ceremonies – Sue McIntyre
The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Keynote Speaker – Susan Seaman, Program Director
North Edge: Business Financing and Community Development

State of the County Remarks – Mike Wilson, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Friday, April 10

11:30 Doors open - Buffet service begins

12:00 – 1:30 Program

Adorni Center

Judith Stoffer
judithstoffer@gmail.com
(707) 502-4344/(707) 443-9972

Maggie Fleming
maggiefleming2018@gmail.com
(707) 501-5420

My check is enclosed to support the 2026 State of the Community Luncheon:

I wish to support The League of Women Voters. Please reserve _____ ticket(s) at \$75 per person.

_____ Indicate the number of vegan/gf meals requested.

I am unable to attend the luncheon, but I wish to support The League of Women Voters with a contribution of \$_____.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

**Payment must be received in advance. Please make checks payable to
The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, P.O. Box 376, Eureka, CA 95502**

Contributions to the LWVHC are **not** deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

* This year a vegan, dairy-free, gluten-free entrée is available at the luncheon. IT MUST BE ORDERED IN ADVANCE. You will receive a ticket at the door for the pre-plated entrée. Please remember to indicate the number of these special meals on the form above..

Don't Forget: State of the Community Luncheon, Friday April 10

Final preparations are being made for the 33rd annual State of the Community Luncheon, April 10 at the Adorni Center in Eureka. Doors open at 11:30 am.

This is the League's major fundraiser of the year and a great chance to catch up with old friends. Luncheon tickets are \$75 per person and this year we're offering a vegan, gluten-free entrée option that must be reserved. Those who choose this option will receive a ticket at the door and won't have to stand in the buffet line.

The Civic Contribution Awards will be presented to Marilyn Tucker (see the March VOTER), and to Betty and Gene Senestraro of Eureka, formerly of Fortuna.

The Senestraros have given their time and talent for more than 70 years volunteering for the betterment of Humboldt County. Leaders in Humboldt's dairy and agricultural industries, the couple were long-time dairy ranchers in the Fortuna area. Both have been active St. Joseph Hospital volunteers – Betty for 45 years and Gene for 30. Betty has encouraged many of her friends to become hospital volunteers and continues to be a regular volunteer at St. Joseph's.

Betty has been the consummate planner and organizer for the Eureka Women's Club and the Red Hat Ladies Club civic projects. Her nominator says, "Without fail, Betty is the person who sells the most tickets, cooks the best food, puts together the most baskets and gathers the most gifts for raffles."

Many of the fundraising events that Betty and Gene support with their time and talent raise money for scholarships. Although the couple did not have the opportunity to go to college, all six of their children earned at least one college degree.

Both Gene and Betty have been active members of the Italian Catholic Federation and the Sons and Daughters of Italy Eureka Lodge, where Betty volunteered for almost 30 years. Gene served three terms as president of both organizations.

Through his service on the Farm Bureau Board, Gene was a leader in shaping Farm Bureau policy in post-World War II Humboldt County. He served on multiple regional and state Farm Bureau boards, receiving a state honor for his 75 years of service to the Farm Bureau. Gene also served on the Water Quality Control Board, California Milk Advisory Board, the County Planning Commission, St Bernard's Parish Finance Committee, and the School Board of South Bay School District. Gene's nominator describes his service: "At every event, Gene is there to help with the work."

The couple have been married for 71 years and have reared six children and have seven grandchildren. Their extended families are especially important, and although separated by many miles, they get together for visits whenever they can. Many family members are planning to attend the SOCL to help honor the couple.

Betty says her volunteering started early when the children were young. "We always went to their events – 4-H and Future Farmers of America, music, and sports – and volunteering came from that mostly," Betty recalls.

Gene remembers his volunteering started at age 21 when John, his youngest brother was 10 years old and wanted to join 4-H. "I became a 4-H leader for him because I was his brother, but I was also his father too." Gene went on to serve on the 4-H Leaders Council for many years. While Gene taught agricultural skills for 4-H, Betty taught cooking. Betty loves to cook, bake, can, and freeze the produce from their large garden. For many years she cooked three large meals every day for her family and the farm workers, plus snacks. She used to bake 50 to 60 pies for her children's school carnival.

(continued on p.4)

Betty, 90, and Gene, 97, attribute their long healthy lives to a number of things: “We’ve eaten good, kept active – I don’t own a mop,” Betty said. “I’m on my hands and knees to clean the floor.” Their Catholic faith has also been an important part of their lives. Betty says the church has helped them have good values and morals, and to be good citizens through volunteer work. “It gives you a great feeling to help others,”

In “semi-retirement,” the couple have enjoyed several month-long cruises, including two to Peru to see a grandchild who was working there. They have also visited Italy, where Gene says he still has hundreds of cousins. They have also been to Australia, New Zealand, and to China to visit their son Dale.

Keynote Speaker, Susan Seaman’s topic is “More Than Business: Building Communities Through Local Economic Choices.” She serves as Program Director at North Edge: Business Financing and Community Development.

Mike Wilson, chairperson, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, will give the State of the County address.

Attendees will receive a copy of the *2026 Citizen’s Guide to Humboldt County Government*. It is a must-have guide for those who want to promote informed participation in local government.

Reservation information is on the League’s website or by contacting Judith Stoffer at judithstoffer@gmail.com, or 707-502-4344.

Anne H. Wasson
LWVHC SOCL Liaison

LWVHC Educational Position Update

A lively and engaged group of LWVHC members met on February 19th to clarify and update the LWVHC positions on Education that were last reviewed in 2018. Danielle Witten, Humboldt County of Education (HCOE) Librarian and Literacies Learning Specialist, gave a brief review of a few of the programs that the county offers to the school districts.

Danielle described Humboldt County’s educational system as unique in the state. It has 30 school districts plus the HCOE, with 80 individual schools that are geographically dispersed throughout the county. Only 30-40% of the student population meets the state literacy goals. Multifactorial determinants contribute to this low rate, including poverty and intergenerational trauma. There is great variation among schools.

HCOE has an extensive library that provides free access to all the schools. There are many libraries within the schools, but some are deteriorating and many are understaffed or staffed by personnel without librarian credentials who serve multiple roles, such as bus drivers and teachers’ aides. HCOE has established a library of audio and e-books available to all students in the county. This has dramatically increased accessibility to books. Students do need an email to access these sources. Danielle was proud to report that recently HCOE was one of nine counties to receive a three-year grant from the California Department of Education. The grant funds the development of transitional kindergarten through fifth grade (TK-5) comprehensive literacy plans, professional development, and implementation support for Humboldt’s highest-need schools.

HCOE welcomes volunteers to work directly with students in the classroom. If interested, contact Danielle Witten at dwitten@hcoe.org.

The group then reviewed the revisions and edits suggested by Danielle and LWVHC members. In summary, there was renewed emphasis on professional development, providing adequate resources for teachers and students, and improving accessibility for students to education services. These were all agreed upon by consensus and will be reviewed at the annual LWVHC meeting in June 2026.

Corinne Frugoni
LWVHC Social Policy Director

Access Humboldt and LWVHC Co-sponsor Illuminate! 2026

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County was a co-sponsor of the Illuminate!2026 event put on by Access Humboldt, and we were well represented at the event on March 19th at the Eureka Theater. Thank you to Board Members **Claire Eyton**, **Corinne Frugoni**, and **Bonnie Oliver** who helped by greeting folks as they arrived, passing around appetizers, and providing brownies and setting out other dessert choices. And a shout-out to **Molly Cate** for making sure the League didn't schedule a membership meeting on the night of the Illuminate! event.

Access Humboldt's Executive Director, Christina Marie Jeffers, gave the introduction. **Julie Kelly** and **Anne Hartline** gave a fun presentation about the LWVHC, and told a great deal about the LWV and all that we do. In addition, Thadeus Greenson, long-time editor of *the North Coast Journal* and winner of last year's Investigative Journalist Award, who now works as the Press Education Specialist for the First Amendment Coalition, gave an excellent presentation. He emphasized the essential nature of freedom of the press in a democracy and the need for and citizens' right to transparency in government.

The winners of the "Ray of Sunshine Awards," known as the Sunnies, are as follows: Mark Larson, a freelancer whose work appears in numerous Humboldt County publications, for Photojournalist; Isabella Vanderheiden, of the *Lost Coast Outpost* and *Humboldt County News*, who investigates and reports about Humboldt County government, for Investigative Journalist; and three Humboldt Cal Poly students, Maryanna Casas-Perez, Noelle Doblado, and Griffin Marcuso who won the Young Journalists Award for their collaboration on "Green-and-Gold Washing on the Menu?" in the November 13, 2025 *North Coast Journal*.

Quite a few League members attended to see who won the journalism awards and to raise their paddles to bid to fund specific services provided by Access Humboldt. It was great fun to mingle with all the journalists and all those interested in supporting open and free reporting.

Janet Foos LWVHC Access Humboldt Liaison

Julie Kelly, Kay Escarda, & Anne Hartline



Greg Foster,
Jane Callahan,
Molly Cate,
&
Christina Marie
Jeffers



Griffin Marcuso & Julie Kelly



Julie Kelly,
Anne Hartline, &
Thadeus Greenson



Sunshine Week 2026 Proclaimed and Celebrated!

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County invited our local Humboldt County governing boards to recognize Sunshine Week which was celebrated this year on March 15-21. Sunshine Week is a nonpartisan collaboration among groups in journalism, civics, education, government, and private sectors that “shines a light” on the importance of access to public information and open government. We were pleased that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Fortuna and Arcata all made Proclamations in recognition of Sunshine Week at their meetings in March. Below is an example proclamation:

Proclamation in Recognition of Sunshine Week

WHEREAS, *Sunshine Week is a national initiative to start dialogue on the importance of open government and the freedom of information; and*

WHEREAS, *Sunshine Week is a non-partisan initiative whose supporters are conservative, liberal, and from every group in between. Sunshine Week participants include print, broadcast and online news media, civic groups, libraries, non-profits, schools and others interested in the public’s right to know; and*

WHEREAS, *James Madison, the father of our federal Constitution, wrote that “consent of the governed” requires that the people be able to “arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives”; and*

WHEREAS, *an open government is vital to establishing and maintaining the people’s trust in their government and in the government’s ability to serve the people effectively. The free flow of information keeps government processes honest and robust. Sunshine Week empowers people to play an active role in their government at all levels and strengthens their access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger; and*

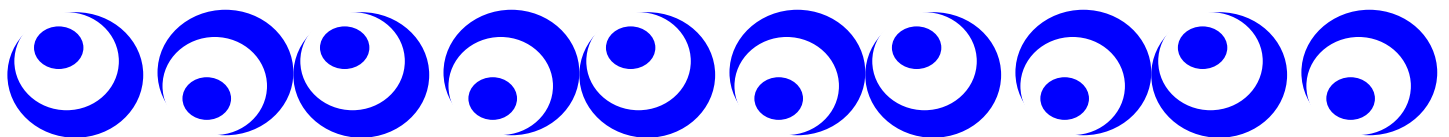
WHEREAS, *protecting every person’s right to access public records and government meetings is a high priority; and*

WHEREAS, *the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County supports the goals of Sunshine Week. The League provides our residents with non-partisan education through public forums, publications, and presentations, assists with voter registration, and encourages participation in government.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED *that (this governing body) hereby names March 15-21, 2026, SUNSHINE WEEK and encourages all residents to educate themselves about government processes that affect their lives.*

The celebration of Sunshine Week included the glowing gathering of Illuminate! 2026, on March 19 at the Eureka Theater, where awards were given to local journalists for their work in our community. This event was co-sponsored by Access Humboldt and the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County.

Bonnie Oliver
LWVHC Secretary



We Need You at the Avenue of the Giants Marathon!

This year marks the 54th running of the marathon on May 3, 2026. The organizers expect a big crowd, having been sold out since early January!

Kay Escarda organized and supervised an aid station all 53 of previous years. Over the last 20+ years, that aid station has been proudly staffed with **LWVHC volunteers**. It's always a lot of fun, raises awareness and good will for the League, and helps the runners as well. As an added bonus, this activity helps raise financial support for LWVHC. Each year we raise between \$300 and \$500 for our treasury. Over the years, this has brought in thousands of dollars! We hope to revive Carol Masterson's tradition of flying The League Banner. It's great advertisement!

This year Kay is passing the baton to me, but she will be there to help. I need about 10 volunteers to handle all the important tasks on that day. We serve water, smiles, and encouragement to every runner who passes by. Tables and supplies are already waiting there, set up for us.

Our station is located at the route turnaround near Myers Flat. Take the freeway 101 to Myers Flat, turn north onto the Avenue of the Giants. Our station is about 2 miles north of Myers Flat. If someone is stationed to say the Avenue is closed to traffic, just say you are staffing the aid station and they will motion you through. Drive carefully as there may be walkers or bikers on the road.

If you are willing to help staff the aid station, let me know NOW, and I will contact you with a reminder and answer any questions you may have. I really appreciate your help!

annehartline10@gmail.com or leave a message at (707)822-1161. Thank you in advance!

Anne Hartline
LWVHC Voter Service Director

Another Successful Election!

Once again so many wonderful League volunteers helped make the Bear River Election a success. Thank you to **Brittany Gonzales**, Bear River Executive Secretary, for all her preparation work, and to the Bear River crew who set up the tables, chairs, and voting booths so they were ready for **Roseann Thomas, Mona Daly, and Peg Gardner** when they arrived at 7:30 AM on March 14, 2026! Thank you, early birds! Throughout the day, the following dependable Leaguers showed up for their two-hour shifts: **Judi Hedgpeth, Joan Williams, Mary Ann Bansen, Sharolyn Hutton, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Kathy Sattler, Kathy Johanson, Peggy Syvertson, Leslie Leach, Roseann Thomas, Janine Randall, Janet Foos, and Molly Cate**. Thank you all for staffing the polls from 7:30 AM to 4 PM, and another thank you to **Janine** for picking up the mail from the P.O. Box and then staying with **Janet** and **Molly** until 6:45 PM to do all the counting! This was a full ballot, with four positions and twelve total candidates, and we four counters needed to agree so the election was valid and credible.

Fortunately, the results were clear. There were no very close races and no ties! However, we are still in the 14-day challenge period, so the results will not be certified until March 30, 2026, after which we will present the final results to the Tribal Council and the newly elected members will be seated.

My very great thanks to so many Leaguers who step up to help with this election, even those of you who are busy Board members. It is a pleasure to see a first-time voter come in and proudly cast a ballot! The Tribal members always thank us for our help, and we also put some money into the League bank account. Thank you, everyone!

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director

History Day Awards

In honor of History Day, on February 28, 2026, the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County awarded eight gift certificates in the following categories:

In the elementary poster division, we chose two posters:

1. Beah Corrigan's "Susan B Anthony: Reforming Voting Rights"
2. Coco Wolf's "Changing History: The 19th Amendment"

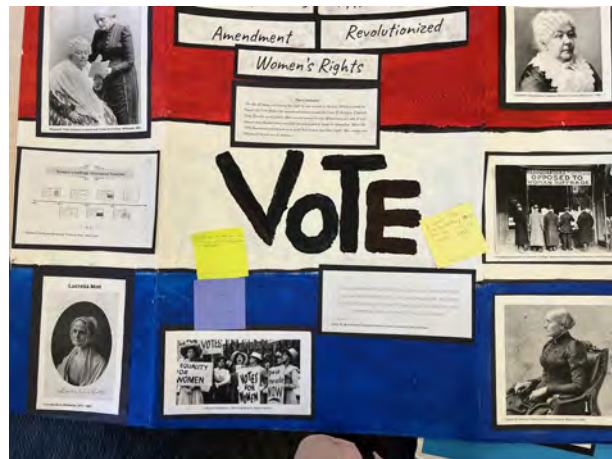
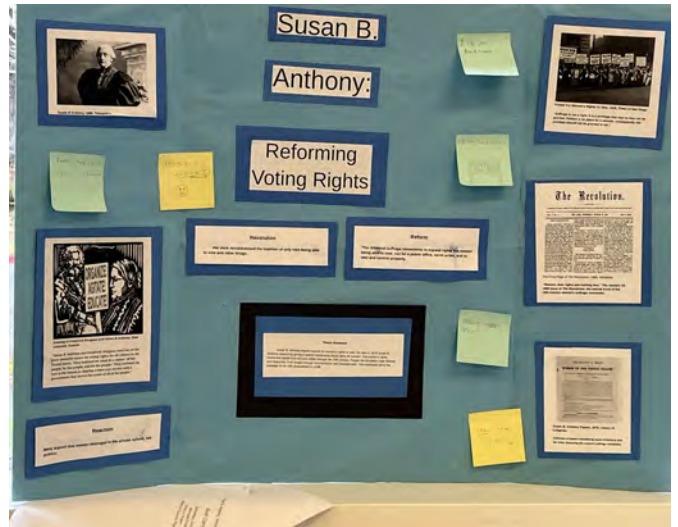
For the Senior Division, we chose three exhibits:

3. Evie Herrera and Nicolai Dillon's "Rosie's are Red, Violets are Blue, We Can Do It Too!"
4. Jane Frimodig and Aditi Bosch-Garza's "Are Women Stupid? Women Educational Rights"
5. Camryn Gritsch and Eve Quinn's "Red Lipstick Means No More Hiding"

1

1. Beah Corrigan's poster "Susan B. Anthony: Reforming Voting Rights" is a nice mix of pictures and text about the history of Susan B. Anthony.

2. Coco Wolf's poster on "Changing History: The 19th Amendment" is a bright and cheerful poster on the history of the 19th Amendment. Her thesis statement included how long it took for the amendment to pass and the women who were instrumental to its passage.

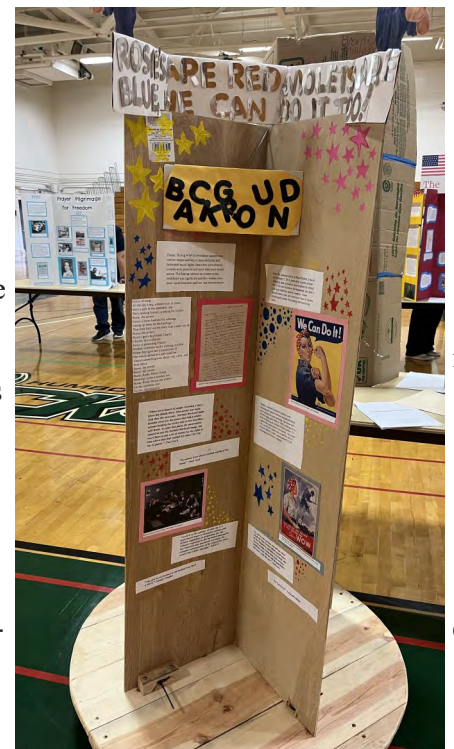


2

3. Evie Herrera and Nicolai Dillon's exhibit "Rosie's are Red, Violets are Blue, We Can Do It Too!" describes how Rosie the Riveter normalized women working in typical male jobs. Their argument is that women taking the jobs that men vacated to go to war was the "first step to the women's rights we have today" and that WWII would not have been won without their help. They felt that the legacy "of this topic is all the women who work today" in stereotypical male jobs such as firefighters and construction workers.

4. Jane Frimodig and Aditi Bosch-Garza's eye-catching exhibit "Are Women Stupid? Women and Educational Rights" shows how their inter-in equality and feminism led to this exhibit. Their research indicates that some women who were resistant to educational attainment were "anti-feminist." To other women, "leaving their traditional roles, such as motherhood or housewife, was new and different; [and] people aren't

3



ing

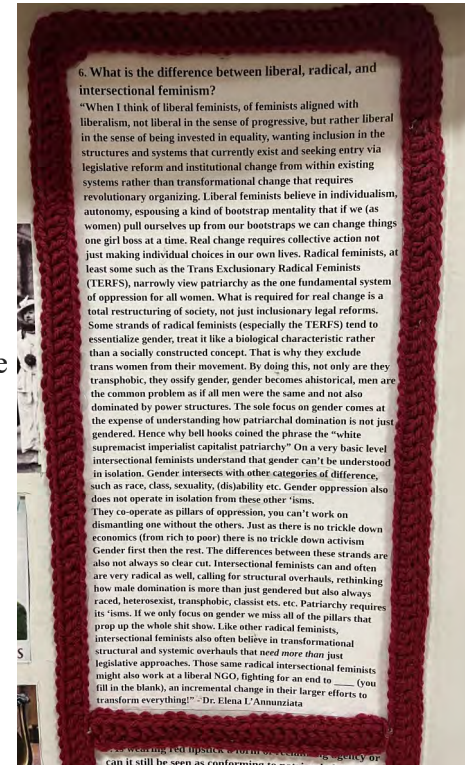
est

History Day Awards (continued)

great at change.” The team decided this was a strong topic because it was historically important, still affects us today, and “we must honor the strength, hard work and resilience women of the past have given us.” (Sorry, there’s no picture of this one.)


5. Camryn Gritsch and Eve Quinn's exhibit “Red Lipstick Means No More Hiding” takes an in-depth look at how women in history used red lipstick as a marker indicating that the women who wore this lipstick were in favor of women’s equality. Their exhibit answers the following questions: “How can men act as allies within the feminist movement?” What are the most common misconceptions people have about modern feminism?” And what is the difference between liberal, radical, and intersectional feminism?” The exhibit was well-researched and well-presented.

Peggy Syvertson
LWVHC Program Director



League of Women Voters Humboldt County 2026 Calendar

Please Note: Board meetings will be hybrid and will take place at United Congregational Christian Church (UCCC), 900 Hodgson Street, Eureka on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5:30-7:00pm. Membership meetings will be on Zoom, generally on the 3rd Thursday of the month, beginning at 6:30pm. Membership Meeting topics shown here may change.

<p>April 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 4/14, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 4/16, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Local Program Planning <u>SOCL:</u> 4/10</p>	<p>June 2026 Please note that the date of the Annual Meeting has been changed from 6/2 to 6/3. <u>Annual Meeting:</u> 6/3, 6 pm, Location TBA <u>Board Meeting:</u> 6/9, 5:30 pm, Tess Coffman’s home</p>
<p>May 2026 <u>Avenue of the Giants:</u> 5/3 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 5/12, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Summertime</p> 

Renew Now or Help Someone Become a LWVHC 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.

Your membership will be good for 1 year from the date you pay your dues.

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

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

A single individual member payment of \$75 is suggested, but you can pay less if you wish, with a minimum of \$20 per member.

I am enclosing payment for my annual membership renewal:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____



The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502

www.lwvhc.org

leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org

(707) 444-9252

Who's Who in Your 2025-2026 League Board

- President.....Julie Kelly
- Vice President.....Peggy Syvertson
- Secretary.....Bonnie Oliver
- Treasurer.....Tess Coffman
- Program Director.....Peggy Syvertson
- Natural Resources Director.Suzanne McClurkin-Nelson
- Social Policy Director.....Corinne Frugoni
- Government Directors.....Claire Eyton
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Director.....Anne Hartline
- Voter Service Director.....Anne Hartline
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Editor.....Leslie Leach
- Community Education Director.....Anne Wasson
- Communications Director.....Jessica Schlachter
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Website Director.....Leslie Leach
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Janet Foes
- SOCL Publicity Chair and Board Liaison....Anne Wasson
- Director.....Kathy Johanson
- Director.....Karen Price





P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

Get Involved!

We all have unique skills to contribute and limited time. 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, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County (LWVHC), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to membership nor participation in the LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, or political affiliation. LWVHC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVHC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, Board, and programs. Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, ability status, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, or marital status. The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission and achievements as well.

LWVHC Calendar

Friday, April 10 11:00 am	State of the Community Luncheon Adorni Center, Eureka
Tuesday, April 14 5:30 pm	Board Meeting UCC Church/Zoom 900 Hodgson Street Eureka, CA In-person
Zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82436363821?pwd=kAnTSbGXQl88VncVvrFgooTOtRpvv3.1	
Thursday, April 16 6:30 pm, Topic: Local Program Planning	Membership Meeting Zoom only
Anytime	LWVHC Webpage LWVHC Instagram LWVHC X Bluesky @lwvhc.bsky.social