

### *President's Message*

Hello League Members!

It's been another busy month with an equally full one coming up!

Top of my mind is the State of the Community Luncheon on Friday, April 19th, with honorees Lori Dengler and Jeff Lamoree of the Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation, keynote speaker Jennifer Savage, and remarks from Rex Bohn. It's shaping up to be a fantastic event! I hope many of you attend.

At the end of February, **Byrd Lochtie** and I were interviewed by Dr. Tom Jackson of Cal Poly Humboldt and Dr. Keith Flamer of College of the Redwoods for KHSU's Talk Humboldt program. We discussed what the League is, what we do, and why people should be interested. The segment hasn't aired yet, but we'll let you know when it's been published.

On March 6th, I attended the Arcata City Council meeting to accept a proclamation for Sunshine Week on behalf of the LWVHC. Sunshine Week is a national week in March that "shines a light" on the importance of open and transparent government, and it is always lovely to receive the proclamation for our organization from the city council.

The LWVHC joined the Eureka Chamber of Commerce this past month, giving us a new place to hold board meetings -- the conference room is very Zoom-friendly, so we're hoping for successful hybrid meetings.

Lastly, I'm on the hunt for a few VOTER issues -- do you happen to have August 2018 and July 2020 tucked away? If so, can I make a copy of them? The Cal Poly Humboldt Library's Humboldt Room has past issues of the VOTER, and those two are missing.

I'm hoping that the rain clears up soon so that I can get to spring planting -- in the meantime, stay dry!

**Jessica Schlacter**  
*LWVHC Co-President*



### *Annual Meeting*

The Annual Meeting is where we make important decisions: who will serve on the LWVHC Board, whether we will pass updated positions, and what we want our League to pay attention to in the next fiscal year.

Event: Annual Meeting - Thursday, May 30  
Time: 6 pm Registration  
6:30 pm Dinner \$25,  
7 pm Business Meeting (No Charge)  
Place: Sequoia Conference Center, Room A, 901 Myrtle Ave., Eureka

Please reserve by May 20, 2024. A reservation made is a reservation paid.

For those attending 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](mailto:simpson2.rebecca@gmail.com)

Please pay by check to: League of Women Voters of Humboldt County,  
P. O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA. 95502

Finally, if you need a ride, please read about the LWVHC Driver Corps on p. 5.

**Becky Simpson**  
**LWVHC Membership**  
**Director**



### *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.



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY**

The LWWHC cordially invites you to the 31st Annual State of the Community Event

The League of Women Voters will be honoring:

**JEFF LAMOREE AND THE SEQUOIA PARK ZOO FOUNDATION**

Community Volunteer

and

**LORI DENGLER**

Emeritus Professor of Geology Cal Poly Humboldt

Master of Ceremonies – Maggie Fleming

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Keynote Speaker – Jennifer Savage, Surfrider Foundation Senior Manager

State of the County Remarks – Rex Bohn, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

**Friday, April 19, 2024**

11:30 Doors open - Buffet service begins

12:00 – 1:30 Program

Adorni Center

For further information contact

Judy Bennett

(707) 845-2215

Maggie Fleming, Chair

Judy Bennett

Kay Escarda

Debbie Hartman

Debbe Hartridge

Lorey Keele

Byrd Lochtie

Carolyn Prescott

Valerie Simons

Connie Smith

Judith Stoffer

My check is enclosed to support the 2024 State of the Community Luncheon:

*I wish to support The League of Women Voters and have my name printed in the program. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s) at \$75 per person.*

*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  
82 Steele Lane, Eureka, CA 95503**

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



## *A Rewarding Collaboration with the Human Rights Commission*

In the fall of 2023, a committee of the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission (HRC) reached out to LWVHC with an invitation to collaborate on creating a public event to discuss free speech and hate speech. Our League board of directors recognized this as an excellent opportunity to put into practice our commitment to work with other community groups and on such an important topic for our community!



Three members of our board, **Molly Cate**, **Karen Price**, and **Anne Hartline**, joined board member **Byrd Lochtie**, who is also a member of the HRC, and four other members of the Human Rights Commission to form the HRC/LWVHC working group. We met throughout the fall and winter on Zoom and on the afternoon of February 21, 2024, presented the “Free Speech versus Hate Speech Forum” at the Sequoia Conference Center in Eureka. The room was full with close to 100 people, proving that local citizens are eager for such public conversations. We were also pleased to see a number of League members in attendance.

The four League members of the working group designed a Question and Answer format for six panelists, much like a candidate forum, something the League does so very well. Anne Hartline, a veteran of many LWVHC candidate forums, was our calm, thoughtful and kindhearted moderator.

Our full HRC/LWVHC working group talked for many weeks about panelists: how many to choose and with what backgrounds. Our tightest constraint was the number; the more responses you have to questions the fewer questions you can include in a two-hour session. We wanted to represent a broad range of community members, chosen for their demonstrated ability to thoughtfully present their perspectives on current, local hate speech or actions and, from their own experience, help people think about how to respond.

The 40 or so exit surveys turned in at the end offered much positive feedback, confirming that the audience especially liked the diversity on the panel, though some were rightfully disappointed that we had not included a speaker from our local Native tribes. Many appreciated the sharing of personal stories. Quite a few wrote that they left with much to think about. Overall, the forum was a very successful event.

Of course, one of the challenges of limiting the panel to six came from knowing that we would not be able to include every voice we wanted in the room. Our working group consoled ourselves with the understanding that this event would probably not be a stand-alone experience; in all likelihood, a follow-up event would be offered.

Those exit surveys were helpful in this regard also. Some suggested we involve younger people, perhaps students. Some sought more clarity about the differences between free speech and hate speech or more instruction on handling an interaction with a person using hateful words.

We were delighted to see that quite a few requested a more interactive event, where participants could ask questions, discuss issues, and interact with small groups. That’s exactly what the Human Rights Commission committee who began this process would most like to offer next.

That’s where the LWVHC members of this collaborative group would appreciate your feedback. What future events in a similar vein might the Human Rights Commission sponsor? If a follow-up event is not a forum, should the League be involved? If so, how? Please share your thoughts with us by contacting **Byrd Lochtie** at [byrdloch@aol.com](mailto:byrdloch@aol.com) or **Molly Cate** at [awestruckliving@gmail.com](mailto:awestruckliving@gmail.com).

*Byrd Lochtie and Molly Cate*



## *It's Election Season*

We all know that March 5th was the Primary Election in Humboldt County and throughout California. And many Leaguers worked at various election-related jobs before, during, and after that date.

But do you all know that the League will be serving as the Bear River Election Board for their Regular Tribal Council Election on March 30? And that we will be conducting the Wiyot Tribal Council Election on April 6? Many volunteers have already worked on preparing mailings for Bear River on Valentine's Day and helped with their candidate forum on March 9. And other volunteers are signed up to work at the actual elections on those two Saturdays. If you haven't already volunteered, and would like to do so, please call me at 707-498-6610 or email me at [byrdloch@aol.com](mailto:byrdloch@aol.com) I still have a few shifts where I could use another volunteer.

I am always so grateful to all the League members who volunteer to help with the different jobs associated with these elections. Thank you to everyone who has worked or is prepared to work at an election. I will be thanking every volunteer by name when we have completed all our work!

Thank you, Leaguers!

*Byrd Lochtie*  
*LWVHC Community Elections Chair*

## *An LWVHC Driver Corps Is Now Available!*

At our February LWVHC Board meeting, we spent some time discussing what we can do as an organization to encourage member participation at our membership meetings. In particular, we agreed that attendance at Annual Meeting each year is especially important, since at that meeting our Board is elected, our annual budget is approved, changes to our program and positions are discussed and voted upon, etc.

Traditionally, Annual Meeting has been an in-person meeting at which we come together to eat a meal (usually dinner), socialize, and conduct our business meeting. However, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have pivoted and tried Zoom, in-person, and hybrid Annual Meetings. Our board agreed that in-person Annual Meeting is by far the most enjoyable format for socializing and building a sense of community, while Zoom has the advantage of being easier for those who are not comfortable driving at night. Obviously, hybrid meetings can be a compromise but generally, the technology piece to make that effective is really challenging.

For the 2024 Annual Meeting, our Membership Chair **Becky Simpson** worked hard to find us a venue in Eureka where we can meet and eat together, one that hopefully has hybrid meeting potential.

However, our LWVHC board decided that another way to have successful in-person meetings would be to provide a crew of volunteer drivers who will pick Leaguers up at their homes, drive them to the meeting venue, and then drive them home after the meeting. Seven Leaguers promptly stepped forward at our February Board meeting to volunteer as drivers, and I feel confident more drivers are available if approached.

So, we are set to try out this idea for the 2024 Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 30. If you would like to attend the meeting but do not want to make the drive at night, please contact **Anne Hartline** at [annehartline10@gmail.com](mailto:annehartline10@gmail.com) by May 20 and let me know where you live and whether you plan to attend the dinner and the meeting or the meeting only. I am happy to coordinate this effort to bring our members together in person in companionship, friendship, and solidarity as Leaguers. Plus, I think this will be really fun!

*Anne Hartline*  
*LWVHC Voter Service Co-Director*

## 2024 History Day

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County (LWVHC) continued their involvement in Humboldt County History Day, on Saturday, March 2 at the Cal Poly Humboldt campus. This year's History Day theme was 'Turning Points in History.' History Day allows 4th graders through high schoolers to compete in varying levels of presentation expectation. LWVHC focuses on posters and projects that center around voting rights and/or women in history.



**Bonnie Oliver, Kathy Johanson, Peggy Syvertson, and Julie Kelly** volunteered their time to walk through the exhibits of projects as well as posters to decide who would receive League recognition as well as gift certificates to local bookstores. This year we chose 4 projects from the senior level (6-12th grade) and 2 posters from the elementary level (4-5th grade) with 8 students receiving bookstore gift certificates. We also handed out a couple of ribbons of recognition this year for students who did not quite meet the certificate standard but displayed great effort. Please see the table below for information about the winning entries.



Overall, participation was lower than in past years but with it being the first in-person History Day since COVID the posters/projects were impressive. Please consider taking the time to judge next year as it is a lot of fun and quite inspiring to see the insight of generations following us.

Special shout out to our **Anne Hartline** who participated, on her own accord, as a History Day volunteer.



Editor's Note: Unfortunately, due to a not-so-smart phone, the names of the award recipients in the above pictures were lost.

**Julie Kelly**  
LWVHC Voter Service Co-Director

Award	Title	Students	School
Recognition Ribbon	Title IX: Changing the Game for Women	Cody Cooley McDowell	Jacoby Creek Elementary
Recognition Ribbon	Rosa Parks: The Woman Who Didn't Stand	Naomi Brown	Garfield Elementary
Poster Winner	Title IX: Fight for Women's Rights	Marayah Kaiser	Garfield Elementary
Poster Winner	A Bridge Towards a Better Tomorrow (about Ruby Bridges)	Alanna Deppe	Trinidad Elementary
Project Winner	The Turning Points That the Seneca Falls Convention Did for Women in History	Dazie Alvarado	Zane Middle School
Project Winner	The Ratification of the 19th Amendment	Aubrey Radford and Kalin Jackson	South Bay Charter School
Project Winner	Row v. Wade	Alana Robinson and McKenna Miller	McKinleyville High School
Project Winner	Indian Citizen Act of 1924	Hanna McCullough	McKinleyville High School



## RECRUITING LEAGUE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD BEGINNING JULY 2024

League members are passionate about the work we all do. The League's Board of Directors needs you, now more than ever before, to help with our efforts to empower voters, defend democracy, and create a more equitable future for all!

Members with diverse backgrounds, experiences, abilities and perspectives are encouraged to apply. You can apply yourself, or nominate another leader to serve on the LWVHC Board of Directors by emailing Lorey Keele or calling (707) 498-9975 by January 1, 2024.

We encourage you to think about the leadership role you could play in making democracy work as we anticipate how the League will impact our community and our country now and in the the future.

### *League of Women Voters of Humboldt County 2023-2024 Calendar*

#### **APRIL**

**Tuesday, 4/2 5:30 Board meeting**

**Friday, 4/19 11:30 SOCL Doors Open Buffet Begins/12:00-1:30 Program**

#### **MAY**

**Tuesday, 5/7 5:30 Board meeting**

**Thursday, 5/30 6:00 Annual Meeting Registration/6:30 Dinner/7:00 Business Meeting**

#### **JUNE**

**Tuesday, 6/4 5:30 Board meeting**

### **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.

Annual Dues are due each year on July 1st

Visit [www.LWVHC.org](http://www.LWVHC.org) or mail the form below!

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

Yes! I want to join the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County and become a voice for citizens and a force for change.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Single Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$115 Family Membership  
(2 in same household)

\_\_\_\_\_ I also want to gift a membership!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing for my annual membership renewal:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_



### **The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County**

627 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502  
[www.lwvhc.org](http://www.lwvhc.org)  
[leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org](mailto:leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org)

(707) 444-9252

#### **Who's Who in Your 2023-2024 League Board**

- Co-Presidents.....Sharolyn Hutton,  
.....Jessica Schlachter
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Maggie Fleming
- Treasurer.....Michelle Vassel
- Program Director.....Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Director.....Sylvia Shaw
- Government Director.....Vacant
- Fairs Director.....Becky Simpson
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Director.....Anne Hartline
- Voter Service Co-Directors.....Anne Hartline  
.....and Julie Kelly
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Editor.....Leslie Leach
- Community Education Director.....Karen Price
- Communications Director.....Vacant
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Director.....Cindy Humphry
- Director.....Bonnie Oliver
- Director.....Peggy Syvertson







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](http://www.lwvhc.org) or call (707) 444-9252.

## ***Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy***

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity

## ***LWVHC Calendar***

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Tuesday, April 2<br>5:30 p.m.<br>Zoom or (see below)<br><a href="https://zoom.us/j/97520276102?pwd=b3NaV0F1RDRPWXk4TC9SZFppRGY4Zz09">https://zoom.us/j/97520276102?pwd=b3NaV0F1RDRPWXk4TC9SZFppRGY4Zz09</a><br>In-person Chamber Office-612 G Street, Suite 101<br>Eureka. | Board Meeting  |
| Friday, April 19<br><br>Doors Open: 11:30 a.m.<br>12:00-1:30 p.m.  | State of the<br>Community Luncheon<br>Buffet Begins<br>Program<br>Adorni Center Eureka                             |
| Thursday, May 30<br><br>6:00 p.m.<br>6:30 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.  | Annual Meeting<br>Sequoia Conference<br>Center, Eureka<br>Registration<br>Dinner \$25 prepaid<br>Program No charge |
| LWVHC Webpag<br>LWVHC Instagram<br>LWVHC X   |  |