

*Our Mission Statement...*

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.

Welcome to the  
special *VOTER*,  
commemorating the  
ratification of the  
19th amendment!



Zoe LoCicero, 15, Freshman, Eureka High School

*Throughout this issue will be winners of KEET-TVs/LWVHC  
Celebrate the Vote Contest held through Humboldt County Schools*



### **ALICE PAUL: A LIFE WELL LIVED**

*By Anne Hartline, Board Secretary LWVHC*

When I was growing up in the 1960s, I remember learning about Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organizing the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York, held in 1848. I also remember hearing the story of Susan B. Anthony's arrest and fine (which she refused to pay) when she attempted to vote in 1872. I saw the pictures of these brave, stoic, determined-looking women and I admired their strength and significance but they weren't people I could really relate to. They seemed so....old. The story was important but a bit boring to my teenaged self.

Years later, as an adult and history educator, I was introduced to the story of Alice Paul and I finally fell in love with the Woman Suffrage Movement. Why had I never heard of this brave young woman before? I think if I had heard of her when I was an adolescent, her youth and fiery spirit would have captivated me. So, in case you don't know her well, let me introduce you to Alice Paul and tell you the story of the 1913 Women's March in Washington D.C.

Alice Paul, a Quaker from Pennsylvania, was born in 1885. She earned a degree in Biology in 1905 and at the age of 22, traveled to Birmingham, England for graduate studies in Social Work. While walking to her lodgings one afternoon, she happened upon a female speaker addressing the crowd about women's suffrage. So loud were the jeers from the crowd that Paul decided to stay and hear what was going on. Afterward, she introduced herself to the speaker, who turned out to be Christabel Pankhurst, daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst, England's most radical suffragette.\* The Pankhurst motto was "Deeds, not words" and they believed in direct and visible measures to gain attention to their demands for suffrage, including heckling, rock throwing, window smashing, police slapping, and blocking meetings. Alice Paul immediately joined the cause. In the summer of 1909, she was arrested and jailed for her protest activities, along with 111 other suffragettes. Coincidentally, Alice Paul met another American suffragist, Lucy Burns, in the police station, and they began to formulate a dream for future activism in the United States. In jail, Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and others declared themselves political prisoners and began a hunger strike. As a result, Alice Paul was force-fed twice daily for a total of 55 times during her 30 days in jail.

\*The term "suffragette", initially a derogatory term used in England, was intended to mock women fighting for the right to vote. However, the term was embraced by British female activists as a way to appropriate it from its negative connotation. The term was generally not used by women activists in the US, who preferred to use the term "suffragists."

After her release from jail, Alice Paul returned home to the United States where suffragists were largely pursuing the vote with a state-by-state campaign which Alice Paul found to be too slow and too polite. When Lucy Burns returned to the US, the two women decided it was time to make their suffrage dream a reality by pursuing a constitutional amendment, something Susan B. Anthony had championed unsuccessfully. Together, they formed a new organization, the National Woman's Party, and they sought public, splashy ways to bring their cause to the forefront.

To that end, Paul and Burns determined that the best way to bring attention to their cause was through a flashy parade in Washington D.C. on March 3, 1913, the day before the inauguration of President-elect Woodrow Wilson. The route they chose was straight down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capital to the White House, and then on to Continental Hall (now Constitution Hall.) Initially, Police Superintendent Richard Sylvester denied the parade permit request, but Alice Paul could be very persuasive, and he reluctantly agreed.

*Continued on Page 8*

## **A More Perfect Union**

*By Molly Cate, Board Member LWVHC*

As we celebrate the centennial of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution, we would be wise to recognize that in 1920 many barriers still existed to the participation of all women in the electoral process. The decades-long struggle that culminated in passage of voting rights for women would take decades more before most women of color were included. Each group of Americans, Black, Asian, Latina and Indigenous, overcame specific obstacles but the common thread was racism.

The suffragists convening in Seneca Falls, New York in 1948 owed a great debt of gratitude to the visionary Black women of the 1837 Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women. These women were the first to propose voting rights for women, understanding that without the vote they were politically voiceless. African American women would steadfastly pursue voting rights for the next 83 years, often against insulting opposition from the white women of the movement.

The pre-Civil War progressive movement that had championed both abolition of slavery and votes for women gradually split under pressure from politicians who only wanted to push the nation to deal with one big change at a time. Frederick Douglass, among others, argued that Black men were losing their lives, livelihoods and families, so the most crucial fight was for abolition. During the Civil War, women's rights were again set aside. In 1870, the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment granted the vote to African American men, though that right would be increasingly hard to exercise through the collapse of Reconstruction in the 1870s and the near re-enslavement of Black people under Jim Crow apartheid in the South.

Though Black women formed women's suffrage clubs and organizations in many states, the schism between African American and white suffragists would continue throughout the decades as white leaders of the movement repeatedly sought to placate whites in the former Confederate states, seeing passage of voting rights for women as more important than interracial sisterhood. Ultimately, the tally of states that did not ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment until after its passage demonstrated the futility of that appeasement strategy. Of the 12 states that did not ratify until later, many not until the 1950s, 60s and 70s, nine were former Confederate states.

Many notable Black women worked hard for women's suffrage, such as the redoubtable Ida B. Wells. She noted that votes for Black women were essential to protect all Black people – no vote equals no jury participation equals no justice. Other African American activists include Harriet Forten Purvis who, with Lucretia Mott, formed the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society in 1833; Anna Julia Cooper, a Washington, DC high school teacher who penned in 1892 the first Black feminist book, *A Voice from the South*; and Fannie Barrier Williams (a friend of Susan B. Anthony) who co-founded the National League of Colored Women in 1893. Of special note here in California is Hettie B. Tilghman who co-founded Alameda County's Fannie Jackson Coppin Club in 1899. She was also deeply involved in the League of Women Voters.

Information about Asian, Latina and Indigenous women activists is much less abundant. As several sources noted, scholarship on suffragists from these communities is just now heating up.

Immigrants from Asia were barred from naturalization until the mid-twentieth century. People from different areas of Asia were granted access incrementally through 1952, with Chinese persons allowed to become citizens in 1943 at the demise of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.

Not being allowed citizenship was no barrier to interest in women's suffrage however. At the turn of the twentieth century, Mabel Ping-Hua Lee was a member of the Women's Political Equality League in New York. Chinese American women campaigned for the vote in San Francisco in 1911 and seven Chinese American women participated in a 1912 women's suffrage banquet in Portland, Oregon. Komako Kimura came to the U.S. from Japan to study feminist activity and though not a citizen, marched, in traditional Japanese dress, in the 1917 suffrage parade in New York City.

Latina suffragists campaigned for women's suffrage in 1911 in Los Angeles. Adelina Otero-Warren, an organizer in New Mexico's Hispano community, became the first female elected official in that state. Jovita Idar, a Texas journalist, organized working women for the vote and founded the League of Mexican Women in 1911. Maria de Lopez was president of the College Equal Suffrage League in California. Maria Amparo Ruiz was the first Mexican American woman to publish in English. Her 1872 novel *Who Would Have Thought It?* was both anti-racist and pro-women's suffrage.

Indigenous people were not U.S. citizens in 1920. That came in 1924. In 1887, Native men who repudiated their tribal affiliation were granted citizenship and, technically, could vote, though many Western states barred Indigenous people from voting until 1948. Natives have also faced the same racist barriers of literacy tests, intimidation and poll taxes as African American men and women. I found only one Indigenous woman mentioned by name, Zitkála-Šá (Red Bird), a Yankton Dakota Sioux, who worked to pass the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act. Notably, several sources mentioned the deep inspiration some white suffragists took from the strong political influence and honoring of women within the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) nation, just as the founding fathers had when they used the Iroquois Confederation constitution to shape the U.S. document.

We, the beneficiaries of the suffragists work, strive to safeguard the right to vote these and many others gave so much for. We thank them for their vision, stamina and heart.

## THE LEAGUE PARTNERS WITH KEET-TV

**By Nancy Kay, Board Member LWWHC**

Think back to the halcyon pre-COVID days last Fall. While League members were gearing up for the August 22<sup>nd</sup> celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and, at the same time, working on library and museum exhibits about the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, KEET-TV asked if we would partner with them on a project that highlighted the PBS special, THE VOTE. The KEET-TV project was to be grant-funded, and the League Board approved our collaboration to help compose the grant and to carry out some of the terms of the grant.

In summary, the League agreed to help KEET with the following:

1. Recording of a series of short segments from community members about the importance of women getting the vote. We were to reach out to various segments of our community: seniors, youths, and women of color for inclusion in these segments.
2. Creating panels for comments after four separate preview screenings (in various venues in the County) for the PBS special, THE VOTE.
3. Creating displays at local museums and libraries.
4. Helping to promote an essay contest in our local school systems about the value of voting women's suffrage.
5. Helping KEET promote the PBS special, THE VOTE.

COVID-19 disrupted many of these plans, which were to commence in January. The feasibility of many of the grant's projects were in question, but the grant was awarded in late February. When the funds were distributed to KEET, we faced the challenge of completing the grant terms remotely and very quickly. We were able to complete several of the tasks:

1. We did recruit several women, from a variety of ages and backgrounds, to talk about their voting experiences. Some of these interviews were taped on individuals' phones. Some have yet to be taped. These pieces will be aired on KEET-TV, YouTube, and FaceBook. The actual plans for airing these tapings have yet to be determined.
2. We did help create panels for virtual preview screenings of the PBS special, THE VOTE. Due to COVID-19 we were not able to go to the four planned venues in the County and interact with the previewing audiences. KEET worked to secure an interactive virtual platform that THE VOTE could be aired on. These virtual screenings and panel discussions were a challenge for both KEET and the League. We hope that people were able to tune in.
3. As for the local museums and libraries displays, *Emily Gunderson* and *Anne Hartline* had already completed a splendid display, which was scheduled to travel to various locations. However, due to COVID-19, the display has been locked-up securely in the main branch of the Humboldt County Library since early March.
4. A gallant effort was made to recruit teachers and students to participate in essay contests. Teachers, scrambling to convert their curriculums and student interactions and evaluations to a virtual reality, were not as engaged in this great idea as they otherwise might have been. We expanded the contest to include other forms of submissions, such as music, art, and drama. We were very pleased with the results. Although we did not receive a great number of submissions, the winning three, featured elsewhere in this newsletter, were quite inspiring. The League awarded these three winners \$100 each.
5. We had planned to promote the PBS special, THE VOTE, to the community at the State of the Community Luncheon. That, of course, did not happen. We will continue to let League members know about the airing of this very important television show, which is near-and-dear to our League-hearts.

It was a wonderful opportunity! It was a great idea! And both KEET and the League should be proud of what we were able to accomplish!

Let us give a special thank you to League members *Anne Hartline, Emily Gunderson, Kay Escarda, Judith Stoffer, Deborah Downs, Byrd Lochtie, Lorey Keele and Maggie Fleming* who were creative, resilient and so-thoroughly League-like dependable during this challenging project!



## BOOK REVIEW

### Review of *Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote*

By Leslie Leach, Board Member LWVHC

Susan Ware, author of *Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote*, brings the American Woman's Suffrage Movement to life for readers. The layout of the book is chronological in that the stories chosen are those of three generations of suffragists with an emphasis on those who worked in the last decade before the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed. Each chapter begins with an introduction to some aspect of American culture such as objects, activities, or the political climate of the time and place where the story of that chapter takes place. These contextual introductions provide readers with a clear understanding of how the stories fit into the bigger picture of the movement. Most of the chapters are about lesser known, but still important women. Rather than the usual focus on the suffragists of the northeastern United States, the author includes women who come from different areas of America.

Ware shows sensitivity in addressing issues such as race, class, religion and gender preference, but she doesn't hesitate to show some of the less appealing facets of the movement. For example, she addresses the issue of race by saying Native American women were completely left out of the movement, and Black women would have been if they had not insisted and persisted in taking part in spite of racism in the ranks of the suffragists. The contributions of poor working women are recognized as important to the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. And what may come as a surprise to us is the plight of middle-class working women whose lack of status in society prevented many of them from obtaining leadership positions in the movement. Many wealthy white women were the movers and shakers of the movement, and Ware gives them the credit that is their due for working tirelessly for the suffrage movement.

Some of the women Ware writes about worked directly with or crossed paths with the familiar leaders of the movement: Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, etc. Other connections between the suffragists are being at the same place at the same time without necessarily meeting one another. Examples are conventions, pageants, parades, and meetings of all sorts. Even though the book isn't a comprehensive history of the Suffragist Movement, it provides readers with the ability to see the movement as a whole much greater than its parts. Ware adds interest by showing so much of the thinking done by the women in the store and how that thinking led to the actions taken to successfully continue the movement up to the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The last chapter about the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment is thrilling! Given Ware's credentials and her voluminous research notes, it's no surprise that *Why They Marched* is considered a scholarly work. But the clarity, ease of reading, and her choice of details are the work of a scholar who knows how to tell a good story.

To read an interview with the author, Susan Ware, and to read a her review of five other books about the Woman's Suffrage Movement, please click on this link: <https://fivebooks.com/best-books/womens-suffrage-susan-ware/>

## COVID and the Vote!!

*By Byrd Lochtie, Board Member LWVHC (originally featured in SeniorNews)*

COVID-19 changed many things in our world, but not the mission of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County: to encourage informed and active participation in government, to increase understanding of public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League's founders were suffragists who wanted to educate new women voters about government and policy following the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

On August 18, 1920 Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the new amendment, becoming the last state needed for the amendment to be adopted. On August 26, 1920, when U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby quietly signed the proclamation stating that the amendment had been ratified according to law. This is when the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was actually adopted and became the official law of the land. The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County had to cancel the parade we had scheduled for August, 2020 but we will still celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the all-important amendment that ensured, in the Constitution, the right of women to vote.

Today voters face new challenges because of COVID-19. Governor Newsom has directed that all registered voters in California be sent a Mail-In Ballot. All voters can choose to mail in the ballot postage-free. Additionally, drop boxes will be found throughout the county and ballots may be delivered to any polling place on November 3rd. Voters who choose to vote in person should bring the ballot they received in the mail to surrender at the polling place in order to avoid the need for a provisional ballot.

You MUST be registered to vote! PLEASE remember to re-register if you change your address, or if you change your name or your party affiliation. You can register or re-register online at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov). Your signature on your driver's license or California ID will be your official signature. If you don't have one of these picture IDs, print the registration form, sign it and mail it postage-free to the Elections Office. The last day to register is October 19, 2020, although you can register and cast a conditional ballot through Election Day. The last Mail-In Ballots will be sent out on October 27, 2020. Call the Elections Office at 707-445-7481 with any questions.

Register to VOTE! Make Democracy Work! VOTE on November 3, 2020!

## Voting Election Tidbits 2020

*By Margaret Augustine, Board Member LWVHC*

This pandemic has really upended the world including our civic duties such as voter registration and voting. For citizens' health and safety, Gov. Gavin Newsome gave an executive order on May 8, 2020, that all registered voters must receive vote-by-mail ballots which can be returned postage free, placed in drop-off boxes throughout the county or delivered to polling places on November 3, 2020.

Two California legislative bills addressed his executive order -- AB860 vote-by-mail ballots and SB423 the statewide general election. SB 423 is to ensure that there are still in-person voting opportunities for those with disabilities and individuals who did not receive or lost or damaged the vote-by-mail ballot.

To get these vote-by-mail ballots, it is important that all eligible Californians register. To check your registration status go to [humboldt\\_elections@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:humboldt_elections@co.humboldt.ca.us). You must re-register if you change your name, address and/or party affiliation.

Important deadlines are:

Voter Registration: postmarked by or done online October 19, 2020.

Vote-by-Mail Ballot Request: must arrive by October 27, 2020

Completed Ballots: Personally delivered: November 3, 2020 at polling places

Vote-by-Mail: postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and received at the county elections office by November 20, 2020.

If you have not received a ballot or need in-person assistance contact the Humboldt County Elections office. Kelly Sanders and her staff will provide assistance as needed. The State must make accommodations for language and handicaps such as blindness, deafness and mobility.

Those accommodations are:

- Languages: Number of languages required vary by county and those mandated for Humboldt County are English, Spanish and Hmong.
- Voting Assistance Centers: They must be ADA compliant. From Oct. 31 Nov. 3, 2020, there will 8-9 of them distributed across the county. They will be open for 8 hours, but on Nov. 3rd hours will be 7a-8p .
- Drop-off boxes will be located in facilities such as grocery stores and hardware stores. Be on the lookout for those black and white boxes. They will be available on Oct. 3, 2020.
- For physical handicaps, the Elections office has ADA machines with audio for visual handicap and dexterity marker for physical handicap. Other devices include pen grips and magni-sheets. Also a voter may receive curbside assistance. A voter may be assisted by a person provided that the assistant is not an employer or union member.
- Unique for this year with the pandemic, personal protective equipment will be available for in-person voting.

For more information, reliable sources of information for voter registration and voter issues are:

- LWVUS website: <https://www.lwv.org> click on VOTE411.ORG
- Voter's Edge: [www.votersedge.org](http://www.votersedge.org)
- California State Registration Site: [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov)
- Humboldt County Elections Office: [humboldt\\_elections@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:humboldt_elections@co.humboldt.ca.us).
- AB860: Bill Text - AB-860 Elections: vote by mail ballots.
- SB423: Bill Text - SB-423 November 3, 2020, statewide general election.

If you want to volunteer at the Humboldt Elections Office, contact Kelly Sanders. Bilingual individuals are especially needed.

**PAUL from Page 2**

The parade plan was indeed grand. Jane Burleson, a suffragist from Texas, was the Grand Marshall. She was followed by lawyer and activist Inez Milholland, riding a beautiful white horse named "Grey Dawn." They were followed by five thousand suffragists divided into seven sections of marchers including representatives of the few nations with full suffrage (New Zealand, Australia, Finland, and Norway). Professional women marched in groups in thematic dress, college women were grouped by alma mater. In all, there were over 20 parade floats, nine bands, and four mounted brigades. Finally, a live allegorical tableau took place on the steps of the Treasury Department. Everything was planned for its striking beauty and visual appeal in photographs.

However, things did not go as planned. The day was cold and the barefoot performers on the Treasury steps had difficulty. The parade started late. Almost immediately, crowds of men (in town for Wilson's inauguration the following day) blocked the path of the parade. Many of the men were drunk and hostile. At times, the parade had to narrow to single file just to get through the crowd. The marchers were pushed, jeered at, and attacked, and police on the parade route did little to help them. By the end of the day, over 100 women had to be hospitalized for their injuries. Amazingly, most of the women finished the parade and eventually reached Continental Hall, where a final rally was to take place.

"But instead of a triumphant capstone to a perfect day, the rally became a meeting of indignation and protest. Very little had gone according to plan. Every woman in the hall was some combination of filthy, battered, unnerved, insulted, weepy, furious and freezing. Still in her academic robes, Alice Paul surveyed the room. And then she smiled. It was perfect." (Roberts, page 23.)

And she was right. The photographs of the parade, along with the stories of abuse, quickly spread throughout the country. Families back home were shocked to see their wives, daughters, and granddaughters receiving such harsh public treatment. The nationwide outcry and press coverage proved to be a windfall for the suffragists. Historians later credited the 1913 parade for giving the suffrage movement a new wave of inspiration and purpose.

The 1913 parade certainly was not the end of the struggle. For another six years, Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party continued to push for a constitutional amendment through aggressive, highly visible actions, including protests in front of the White House which yielded more arrests and the horror of force feeding. The story of the "Silent Sentinels" is worthy of another long article for this publication. Suffice it to say that Alice Paul continued to bring the lessons that she had learned from the Pankhursts to the suffrage struggle in the United States.

When the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment" finally passed in Congress in June 4, 1919, Alice Paul rejoiced. Now it was time for state ratification. Thirty-six states were needed. As the state-by-state ratification process continued, the suffragists continued to lobby and advocate. As each state ratified the amendment, Alice Paul stitched a new star on her ratification flag. When Tennessee became the 36<sup>th</sup> star on August 18, 1920, Alice sewed on the star and raised a victory glass in front of the banner.

However, Alice Paul was far from done. In 1923 she drafted the first version of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). It was introduced in every Congress for fifty years. Alice Paul went on to live a long and vibrant life. When she died in 1977 at the age of 92, she had lived to see the ERA finally pass in Congress in 1972. (The story of the ratification of the ERA will have to be told at another time.) Hers was truly a life well lived.

As an important side note: The 1913 Women's Suffrage Parade is sometimes called the first peaceful march on Washington. However, the nation's underlying problem of racism raised its ugly head even here. When African American women wished to participate in the parade, the organizers feared conflicts and agreed to have them participate only if they marched in the back. The journalist and suffrage advocate Ida B. Wells famously defied this requirement and walked with the Illinois delegation.

**References:**

Roberts, Rebecca Boggs. *Suffragists in Washington, D.C.: the 1913 Parade and the Fight for the Vote*. History Press, 2017.

National Women's History Museum, [https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/alice-paul?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIm4\\_dn53X6QIVUvDACH0MTgcUEAAYASAAEgJLWPD\\_BwE](https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/alice-paul?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIm4_dn53X6QIVUvDACH0MTgcUEAAYASAAEgJLWPD_BwE)

"Women's Suffrage", History.com, [https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage?li\\_source=LI&li\\_medium=m2m-rcw-history](https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage?li_source=LI&li_medium=m2m-rcw-history)

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2016/03/03/this-day-history-1913-womens-suffrage-parade>





Gemma Caruso, 12, 6th grade,  
Jacoby Creek School

## Women's Right to Vote

Lyrics by Gemma Caruso

*Music from Rumor in St Petersburg,  
from Twentieth Century Fox's Anastasia*

Women's rights are gloomy

Women's rights are bleak

My umbrella was frozen marching round all week!

Since we started marching, the men have been so rude!

Thank goodness for knowledge that gets us through the day!

Have you heard?

The women want the right to vote!

Have you heard that they're marching in the street?

Although the women want the right, others say "not worth the fight."

Women for the vote!

It's a dream, a hope, a chance for us,

We will get our rights or here we stay

It's a fact, to go down, in history!

They say the women marching there are led by Susan B.

Anyone one can help us get our rights!

A rally for this just cause, a march is on the ninth,

Come join us in a quest to get our basic rights!

We're here to get our rights back

A simple enough request!

It's the dream, the hope, the chance for us

We will get our rights or here we stay

It's a fact, to go down, in history,

You let us vote or we will march every single day

We're intellectually equals, in every single way

Imagine how we'll feel as we vote in the election!

Who else to join the cause but you and I!

We'll get the vote! We'll get our rights!

And the picketers will have some more to talk about!

Have you heard?

The women want the right to vote!

Have you heard

that they're marching on the street!

Have you heard?

The women want the right to vote!

Have you heard

that they're marching on the street!

A fascinating history

Women's rights not just history

Woman's right to vote!

We will vote!

### New League Members

Gizele Albertin

Jennifer Mishkin-Krause

Susan O'Connor

Karen Paz Dominguez

Amy Rennie

Joan Schirle

Allison and Peter Tans

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

434 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502

www.lwvhc.org  
info@lwvhc.org

**2019-2020 BOARD**

President.....Deborah Downs  
Vice President.....Julie Kelly  
Secretary.....Anne Hartline  
Treasurer.....Nancy Kay  
Program Director.....*VACANT*  
Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach  
Social Policy Director.....*VACANT*  
Government Director.....*VACANT*  
Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate  
Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie  
Forum Director.....Carol Masterson  
Voter Service Director.....Maggie Augustine  
Membership Director.....Becky Simpson  
Webmaster/Social Media Chair.....*VACANT*  
VOTER Editor.....Dave Rosso  
Community Education Director .....Nancy Kay  
Communication Director.....*VACANT*  
Traditional Media/Publicity Chair...Jessica Schlachter

**YEARS**

*By Rowan Dick, 14, 8th grade,  
Alder Grove Charter School*

It didn't happen overnight,  
No, it took years of toil;  
Years of fighting with all our  
might,  
Years of digging soil.

Years of marching through the  
streets  
Colored banners flying;  
Years of pushing through the  
sleet  
With one hope unifying.

Years of being only girls  
Being made for only sitting;  
Being made for rosy cheeks and  
curls,  
For stitching and for knitting.

Years of being told 'be careful,'  
And 'darling don't walk too  
fast;'

Years of being a delicate soul,  
And not meant for duties vast.

And after all these years  
After trouble, pain and perk;  
We still are not called equal  
After all our heartfelt work.

**LWVHC & KEET**

**Have partnered together to provide  
another chance to view**

**PBS's THE VOTE**

*AUGUST 3rd @ 9pm*

## **My Firsts**

***Leslie Leach, Board Member LWVHC***

A group of women and I were talking about the American Suffrage Movement, and we remarked on how many of our mothers and how many of us had "firsts" as a woman. I've had at least two "firsts" that I'd like to share with you.

My first "first" occurred when I was in high school. I walked 1.8 miles to school in all kinds of weather, including snow and freezing cold because I was the only one of a large group of kids in my neighborhood who lived 1.8 miles from the school instead of the 2 miles necessary to take the school bus. I didn't mind walking in any weather except the cold. The reason I minded the cold weather so much was the school dress code: dresses and pantyhose for girls.

During a particularly long cold spell when I was a junior, I decided enough was enough. I called some of the girls I knew from other neighborhoods who also had to walk to school and suggested the next day we wear pants in protest. About 10 of them agreed. However, not one of them showed up to school in pants. Instead, without being allowed a word in my defense, I was sent home in disgrace. My mother was sympathetic, but she warned me that I shouldn't try to change the school dress code by being a radical. I pretended to agree with her.

That evening, I called the same girls I had called the night before. This time, I was successful in persuading them: they all wore pants to school the next day. Before school had started, we were herded into the principal's office and asked who we thought we were. I replied that we thought we were cold! I asked the principal, counselors and a few teachers there if any of them walked 1.8 miles first thing in the morning when it was 15 degrees wearing a dress and panty hose? The men were quiet and rightly so. And as it turned out, the women all drove to school, with their car heaters going full blast, no doubt. I proceeded to make my case politely and persuasively, hoping that reason would prevail. The principal told us he would take our complaint to the board. He did. The board ruled that girls could wear "slacks" not pants, to school. And the former dress code for girls, only dresses and pantyhose became history.

I know I was the first girl in my high school to successfully protest the dress code. However, I have no way of knowing how many other women may have made the same protest as I relate in my second story. In hindsight, it's a story of a reverend's "first."

Because of a long, involved history, which I will spare you, my husband and I did not attend the church or know the reverend who married us. But the reverend insisted we speak with him about the ceremony and the sanctity of marriage before he would marry us. Fair enough. The meeting was going fine until the reverend went over our sacred vows: Love, honor, and obey. I immediately objected, telling the reverend that my husband and I were entering into a husband and wife relationship, not a master and slave relationship. Furthermore, I said I would never vow to obey anybody ever (the ever was for emphasis). The reverend looked as though I had slapped him. He let me know that nobody had ever objected to the vows of his church before. I remained unmoved. Finally, the reverend told us he would let us know whether he would consider changing the vows and marrying us. We were summoned by the reverend the next day. He asked us (me) what we thought about love, honor and cherish. I said I would joyfully take that vow. And I did.

Standing firm in the choice of our wedding vows was a good decision: My husband and I have loved, honored and cherished each other for 47 years and counting.



P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

To: