

### *President's Message*

Dear League Members,

The holiday season is coming up; the election season is over. Now is the time to come together and celebrate all the wonderful things we have in our families, our friends, and our country. We have gone through an election in a pandemic and found new secure ways of voting. Those of us who volunteered to work in the election office this year, will attest to the dedication, patience, and diligence of the officials running this election in Humboldt County. They are utterly amazing and dedicated people.

Kicking off the celebration, the League will provide an opportunity to share our thoughts, appreciation, and ideas, at a holiday Zoom party. Please put December 8 on your calendars and join us to share some League cheer and raise a glass for the important work the League supported in this election season. Look for the Zoom invitation that will be sent out before that date.

Part of that important work was the YouTube Videos of forums, definitely the most popular work we did this season, with over 3,000 views. The Pros & Cons also were viewed 100 times. Twitter and Instagram posts went out on a regular basis reaching several hundred people. Also, a big thank you to **Anne Hartline** for working with the HSU students in their campaign for informed voting, helping with information to share with students.

I encourage all members to remember to be safe this holiday season. We look forward to 2021 and continuing the important work of the League

*Deborah Downs*  
*LWVHC President*

**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!**

### *Nominating Committee*

Our League continues to work despite the Coronavirus, and finding new board members is one of our duties. As the Nominating Committee begins its series of meetings, we need inspiration and guidance from our membership.

This is the time to let us know if you are interested in being on the board. It may seem daunting, but it is worthwhile, enlightening, and fun. Please contact me if you would like to serve on the board or if you know of someone who would make a great board member. Thanks to all of you, our League can continue to grow and thrive.

*Judy Bennett*  
*Nominating Committee Chair*

### **Save the Date!**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

**LWVHC Holiday Party**

**It's time to get together to  
celebrate the holidays!**

**Please attend via Zoom**



### *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.



## *News from the League*

### *Holiday Giving*

The holidays are fast approaching, and while the Board of Directors discussed how to conduct our annual holiday party via Zoom, we realized that our traditional annual community gift-giving was going to be a challenge, also.

Typically, when our League members gather for our holiday celebration, we bring a gift for a “tween,” an oft-forgotten group of youngsters between the ages of 10 and 12. These children are usually too old for Toys-for-Tots, but they ARE still children, so we have targeted these kids in the past for gift-giving. We delivered our collected gifts to the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods for distribution.

This year we decided to collect money to deliver to the Boys & Girls Club, and ask it to purchase appropriate gifts for the tweens. In recognition of COVID-19, this method means fewer shopping excursions for League members and eliminates the challenge of collecting the gifts. Remember, many of the children at the Boys & Girls Club are likely more affected by unemployed parents due to the pandemic, and they are at risk of having a very sad holiday.

Please consider mailing a check to the League, and we will collect the checks and present one large check from the League members to the Boys & Girls Club for gift purchasing.

Mail your checks, payable to LWVHC to PO Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502. Please note in the memo line that the check is for “Holiday Giving for Tweens.”

Thank you for your generosity.

**Nancy Kay**  
*LWVHC Treasurer*



## *More Thank Yous*

### *Thank You, Sheriff Honsal*

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County would like to commend Sheriff William F. Honsal and his staff for their exemplary work over the last few months as they have dealt with issues around a pandemic and a highly contested election. Sheriff Honsal offered de-escalation training to poll workers and used strategies to ensure a peaceful election. He said he had “all hands on deck, quietly” by deploying deputies, in plainclothes, near polling places, ready to help if needed but not obvious so as to limit concern or even violence.

His attitude with Covid-19 and the election was to prepare beforehand. He prefers to engage in discussions to gain compliance before any event rather than confront participants openly at an event. He kept his deputies low-profile, watchful and discreet. During the week of the election, the sheriff was in communication with the State Police and all local police departments, but again, he was low-key and watchful but not confrontational.

Thank you, Sheriff Honsal and all your deputies, for your excellent service to our county.

**Byrd Lochtie**  
*Elections Service Director*

### *Thank You, Board Members*

On Saturday, October 3, 2020, two other League members—**Maggie Augustine** and **Deborah Downs**, joined me as we sat in our sanitized room in the Wiyot Community Center on Table Bluff to count votes for the Wiyot Tribal Election. Thanks to Fawn Lopez, Tribal Administrative Assistant, for her help in giving us a safe space, complete with gloves, sanitizer, and masks. This was a small ballot, so our work was done quickly after opening all the mailed-in ballots that had come to our Election Post Office Box.

Thank you, Maggie and Deborah, for your willingness to drive out to Table Bluff on a Saturday. Thank you also to the Wiyot Tribe for their trust in us, and for providing a bit of extra income to our budget.

**Byrd Lochtie**  
*LWVHC Elections Service Director*

## *Reflection on the Election*

A few weeks ago, I did something I have never done before -- I worked at a polling place (this year called a Voter Assistance Center) staffed largely by League members. I know that somewhere in this VOTER there's a great article written by **Nancy Kay** describing the diligent work of the Elections Department during this very unusual and challenging election season, and I couldn't agree more! Still, I decided that I wanted to put a different spin on the entire process and share with you my experiences as a first-time election worker.

I'll admit, when Nancy Kay called and asked if I'd be willing to work at the Voter Assistance Center for all four days (Saturday, October 31 – Tuesday, November 3), I was hesitant. It wasn't that I already had anything planned for those four days, but WOW! 48+ hours in four days is a lot of time. Still, I was impressed with Nancy's desire to make this happen, and I was proud that LWVHC was willing to take this on. And really, how hard could it be? And so, I said yes.

(Side note: In case you don't already know this, there are a number of people involved with LWVHC who are really hard to say no to, and Nancy Kay is one of those people!)

After attending the two three-hour training sessions in the weeks before the election and downloading and printing the 100+ page Election Worker Manual, I began to realize that it actually was a bit more complicated than I had thought. On the Friday night before the Center was to open, standing in front of the large garage style utility door in the all-cement and nearly frozen Elections Annex, I began to have some trepidation. Was I going to be able to do this? Nancy's team seemed very competent, and Nancy was super organized, but I still found myself feeling rather nervous. I did NOT want to do anything to make the League, or the Elections Office, look bad. And I didn't want to make anyone mad, and I didn't want to freeze to death.

The next morning, when Nancy announced, "The polls are open!" and we pulled up that massive garage door and the Arctic wind blew in (okay, so I'm exaggerating a bit!) I got a chance to put my training and preparation to work. The first two days (Saturday and Sunday) were fairly calm, a good

thing since it gave each member of the team the opportunity to work the kinks out of their assigned jobs. Monday was a bit busier, especially during the lunch hour and the hour before closing, I thought, "Okay, piece of cake." Oh, you silly woman.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, was a whole new ball game. When the door went up, and Nancy opened the polls at 7 a.m., there was already a line. Actually, there was a line from 7a.m. when we opened to 9 p.m. when we got the last voter through the Center. For the most part, we couldn't see how long the line was because we didn't have any windows, but I did ask people how long they had waited and they regularly said, "Oh, not long, only an hour." I'll admit that once I realized we had a line that went around the building, I really expected some grouchy people, but they didn't materialize. In fact, people seemed grateful that we were there, and many thanked us. I figure we processed around 450 voters that day in 14 hours, which works out to 30+ voters per hour or one every two minutes, for the entire day. (Yes, I was a zombie on Wednesday.)

In terms of memories though, the thing I enjoyed most was the chance to talk to people who were voting for the first time. Many young people passed with excitement through my station, and I regularly felt a rush of joy helping them to have a positive first voting experience. Though it was a bit of a pain in the neck, I was proud that we could register voters on the spot, and that they could vote right then and there (albeit on a conditional ballot). Several of my former students came through my station, and I'm sure my smile of fondness and pride was visible, even covered by my COVID protection mask.

Still, a final memory stands out as probably my favorite. I think it was on Monday when a young man stood before me, hoping to vote. I asked him if he had received a vote-by-mail ballot (my usual first question) and he said, "I don't think so." When I tried to find him in the computer, he didn't show up. I asked him when he had registered. He replied that he had done it a few days ago online, but that he had only turned 18 the day before. I got chills (of course, it was cold!) and a little teary. There he was, an eligible voter for just one day, and he was going to vote in a presidential election. I was thrilled to tell him that he would vote, and that we were all thrilled to help him.

continued on p. 4

## *Reflection on the Election (cont.)*

So, there you have it. Bottom line, it was tiring but it was worth it. I'm grateful to LWVHC and to **Nancy Kay** and to our team for affording me this memorable experience. Next time? Hmm, I'll have to think about that!

*Anne Hartline*  
*LWVHC Secretary*



### *Thanks to Our Elections Office – And Our League*

There is a sense of joy and satisfaction when working with people who strive for excellence. And when those working toward excellence are also pleasant and cheerful, a sense of well-being enfolds us. That sense of well-being may be overlooked or may go unnoticed in our community, but it certainly was experienced by League members who volunteered to help in the recent General Election.

It should go without saying, there were challenges facing us in this election. We KNOW all about social distancing and other COVID-19 issues. We KNOW about the political climate and the polarization in our country. What we need to acknowledge and appreciate is the way that the Humboldt County Elections Department worked diligently to provide a safe, efficient, and fair election. They thought of every contingency, every possible problem, and they thoroughly trained a group of volunteers in new voting procedures and rules. Their on-going motto, "Yes, you can vote today," was the basis of their positive interactions with the voters. That motto reflects the attitude of our Elections Department. In addition, the Elections Department was pleasant and responsive to the needs of our community's voters and poll workers. Humboldt County should relish the sense of well-being that our Elections Department delivered to us.

The League of Women Voters should also recognize that League volunteers also strove for excellence in the variety of tasks they provided in this election. Unfortunately, I do not have a complete list of League volunteers, but I wish to acknowledge the

Poll Worker Team that ran the Voting Center for the four days from October 31st through November 3rd. **Deborah Downs, Anne Hartline, Nancy Frost, Alex Stillman, Connie Stewart,** and I worked those four days, and the last day was an 18-hour work-day! In addition, the Election Department assigned a "tech manager" to each center. We got Tom Pinto, the tech guy for the DA's office. He was an AMAZING addition to our team.

Other League election volunteers, **Margaret Augustine, Byrd Lochtie, Elaine Weinreb, Tracy Jordan French, Patricia-Anne WinterSun,** and **Ann Diehl** also contributed to the effort to provide an election that we can be proud of. I apologize to League members whom I have left off this list. I can say with certainty that the League strove for excellence and maintained a pleasant and service-minded demeanor. League members also provided us with the sorely needed sense of well-being.

Let us congratulate the Humboldt County Department of Elections.

Let us congratulate the League of Women Voters volunteers. **Feels good, doesn't it?**

*Nancy Kay*  
*LWVHC Treasurer*

**Welcome**

**Pete Bansen**

**Jerry Martien**

**Connie Stewart**



## ***Program Meeting***

The League is occasionally asked to take a stand or support a proposition, or an issue, and we turn to our position statements to determine if there has been a study and if we are able to support the request. Every year we review the various positions listed in the Annual Meeting Kit, to be sure they are up to date, if a new study should be done, or if the position should be rewritten. The League went through that procedure on November 15 by reviewing the Eureka City Government position. Eureka Mayor Susan Seaman reviewed the statement and then spoke to the various elements of the position. The members reviewed the City Charter, the Council/Manager form of government, and the ordinance procedure used by the city. The members also discussed the role of the mayor in Eureka compared to other cities in the area. The passage of the Ranked Choice Voting this November by city residents will change the City Charter and the members discussed that process as an example of the Eureka City government process.

After the discussion with the mayor, the members reviewed the position summary and made recommendations to rewrite the position for more clarity and consistency. The changes will be presented to the membership at the next Annual Meeting in May.

Thank you to Susan Seaman for taking time to provide interesting discussion and great information for the League review of a position.

***Deborah Downs***  
***LWVHC President***



## ***California's Water - Sharing Our Knowledge***



When you turn on the tap in your home, where does the water come from? Where does it go? The answers may surprise you.

The California water system is bewildering in its complexity. Some water rights date to the Gold Rush and are held jealously. Our population and economy grew as they did because we engineered dams, viaducts, channels and more that move water from hundreds – sometimes thousands – of miles away.

Giant water projects have allowed us to build an agricultural juggernaut that demands water, even when the rivers and aqueducts run dry. Local rivers and streams are an important source of water for many communities and farms in Northern and Central California. When surface water is not available, we turn to groundwater, but that resource is being over-drawn.

Water is important to all aspects of life – ours, and that of plants and other animals. Water and water policy also have influence on and are influenced by many other aspects of natural resources – climate change, forests, sea level rise, land use, and many more.

The League of Women Voters of California has more than 30 members dedicated to understanding California's water. The Water Committee, co-chaired by Jane Wagner-Tyack and Roberta Borgonovo, has members from all across California with both scientific and policy expertise on California's unique water supply and distribution systems.

***Dr. Diz Swift***  
***LWVC Natural Resources Director***

### ***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***

434 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502  
[www.lwvhc.org](http://www.lwvhc.org) [vote@lwvhc.org](mailto:vote@lwvhc.org)  
(707) 444-9252

#### **Who's Who in Your 2010-2021 League Board 2016-2017**

- President.....Deborah Downs
- Vice President.....**VACANT**
- Secretary.....Anne Hartline
- Treasurer..... Nancy Kay
- Program Director.....**VACANT**
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Director.....Molly Cate
- 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
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Editor.....Dave Rosso
- Community Education Director .....Nancy Kay
- Communication Director.....**VACANT**
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter

“We must try again to be alive to what the people of our country really long for in our national life: forgiveness and grace, maturity and wisdom.

Our political leaders will know our priorities only if we tell them, again and again, and if those priorities begin to show up in the polls.”

Peggy Noonan, *Patriotic Grace: What It Is and Why We Need It Now*





P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

### ***Get Involved!***

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

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### ***Our Diversity Policy***

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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!***

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### ***LWVHC Calendar***

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Tue., Dec. 8 5:30 PM	Board Meeting Zoom
Tue., Dec 8 6:00 PM	Holiday Get Together Zoom
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!