

President's Message

Hello League members!

Your LWVHC board is still plugging along. We're becoming accustomed to hybrid board meetings, and with the time change and the sun now setting prior to 5 p.m., the idea of Zooming into the meeting from the coziness of my living room is sounding more and more irresistible!

Molly Cate is continuing to blow us away with her updates on how she plans to take the new Behavioral Health position that resulted from the years-long study into the community. Karen Price and Anne Hartline are in the planning stages of a community forum on civil discourse, the idea for which was initially brought to the board by Byrd Lochtie, who also serves on the local Human Rights Commission.

And finally, I hope to see many of you at the holiday party on December 12 at Leslie Leach's! I love an opportunity to gather together. It was wonderful meeting many of you in person at September's membership meeting, and I'd love to continue that momentum in December.

Have a happy holiday season!

Jessica Schlachter
LWVHC Co-President



Please note that the date has been changed for the December Board Meeting and Holiday Party to Tuesday, December 12. The Board Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Attend in person or on Zoom. The Holiday Party begins at 6:00. Please attend in person.

Save the Date!

LWVHC Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 12
6:00 p.m.

2932 K Street, Eureka

Leslie Leach's home

Please bring "finger food" to share and your choice of beverage.

The LWVHC will be accepting

donations for the tweens of the Boys and Girls Club of Eureka.

Please see p. 6 for directions to Leslie's home.



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.

Press Release from the League of Women Voters California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

League of Women Voters of California Education Fund Announces Transition to Vote411 for Ballot Planning

California, November 1, 2023 - The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) is thrilled to announce an upgrade to its voter empowerment tools. Beginning with the 2024 election cycle, Californians looking for election information from the LWVCEF will use VOTE411 as their new ballot planning tool.

VOTE411, a leading digital platform dedicated to electoral information, will offer voters in California a streamlined and intuitive interface to research candidates, understand ballot measures, and prepare to vote confidently. This shift signifies the League's continued commitment to empowering voters and making democracy work for all Californians.

"We are excited about this transition," states Chris Carson, Board President of the LWVCEF. "VOTE411 has a proven track record in assisting voters across numerous states. By offering this tool to Californians, we are ensuring that they have access to the most comprehensive and up-to-date information to make informed choices."

The change comes after extensive research and consultation, ensuring the best fit for the diverse needs of California's electorate. The new platform is expected to be user-friendly, mobile-responsive, and will offer a variety of features tailored to the unique needs of California voters.

The League urges all Californians to familiarize themselves with VOTE411 ahead of the 2024 elections. The tool will be accessible across all devices and will continue the League's rich history of providing voters with non-partisan, factual, and trusted electoral information.

To use VOTE411, simply visit VOTE411.org.

About the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) The LWVCEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all Californians are informed and active participants in the democratic process. Through its educational projects and research, the LWVCEF provides Californians with trusted information about their voting rights, the electoral process, and the importance of civic participation.

Contact: Amaris Lebron, LWVC CivicTech & Project Specialist, lwvc@lwvc.org

A Summary of Recent Program Events

The LWVHC Program Team got our 2023-2024 season of events off to an energetic start this fall. We hosted two membership meetings and organized a public presentation of our new Humboldt County Behavioral Health Services position.

First, on October 19, we held a membership meeting on program planning, a brainstorming session to identify potential new topics for our League to study and informational meetings we might hold. Though no topics were put forward for a full study, the clear preference was that we revisit our position on the “Development of Humboldt Bay” again, even though it was just reviewed last year and passed at our 2023 Annual Meeting. The consensus of the October 19 meeting was to revisit it as soon as possible and add information on sea level rise and climate change, and also wind farms and fish farms.

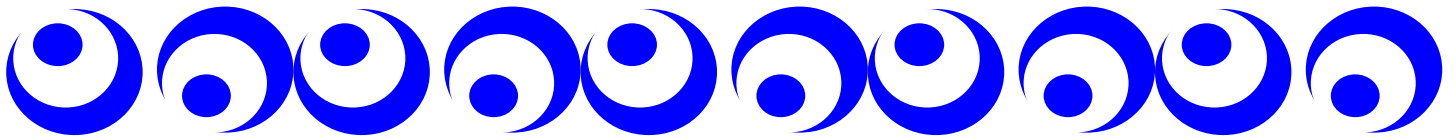
The second item on the agenda for the October 19 meeting was to create a new rotation for reviewing our existing positions. After considering whether to hold three position review meetings a year or two, the consensus was to hold two per year based on the last year each was reviewed, with the exception of the aforementioned “Humboldt Bay” position. That one was fast-tracked into 2025, the earliest year available. (Note: the date on a position reflects the Annual Meeting at which it was accepted by the members.)

On Monday, October 23, several members of the LWVHC who participated in our behavioral health services study committee (Molly Cate, Debbe Hartridge and Laura Montagna) led an OLLI Brown Bag Lunch Presentation on Zoom to spread the word about our new behavioral health services position. We went through the position section by section, defining terms, describing the study process and taking questions from the 40 or so people in the Zoom room.

Then, on November 16, we held a membership review via Zoom of our “Role of Government in Economic Development in Humboldt County” position. We used the County’s current Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018-2023 as a guide and also had the kind and more-than-able assistance of Gregg Foster, executive director of the Redwood Region Economic Development Commission. With Gregg’s extensive notes (he had another commitment that night so could not join our meeting), we crafted an effective, up-to-date rewording of some phrases while retaining most of the original.

We will present the proposed new rotation for position reviews and the revised “Role of Government in Economic Development in Humboldt County” position at the Annual Meeting next May.

Molly Cate
LWVHC Program Director



Remembering Barbara Kelly September 22, 1934 - June 23, 2023

We were saddened to read of the death of **Barbara Kelly**, a long-time League member and community activist. Barbara was a hard-working and dedicated Leaguer who contributed to our organization in multiple ways. During the 1980s and 1990s, she was especially active, serving numerous years on the LWCHC Board as Natural Resources Chair and writing passionate articles for The VOTER on a wide variety of topics including a proposed wood waste power plant (1982), the County's General Plan (1983), legislative interviews (1987), proposed locations for the new county library (1992 and 1993), using legislation to "make developments in our community more pleasing to animals and plants" (1996), to just name a few. Barbara even served as co-producer of League Speak, a weekly three-minute broadcast on KHSU (1996). Barbara's many talents and interests greatly enhanced the work, and the reputation, of LWVHC.

Barbara was a defender of nature and our earth. She was active in many community groups and causes, including Lamphere Dunes, Samoa Beach, and other coastal areas. She fought for nature, the snowy plover, and neighborhood ecology. She was interested in mycology and wildflowers and trekked through the woods in the spring to collect wildflower specimens for the Wildflower Show of the Wildflower and Native Plant Societies.

Barbara was a supporter of the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. She also strongly supported Planned Parenthood and the right of young women to make their own decisions about reproductive care.

Barbara was an avid reader and lifelong learner who loved to learn about all things natural and political, from climate change to pollinators. She especially liked history and memoirs written by her favorite political figures.

In addition to being a community advocate, Barbara, a UCLA graduate, worked also as a teacher and early childhood educator. Barbara met Dr. Paul Kelly at UCLA, and they were married for nearly 65 years. She is survived by Paul, her three children, her grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

We will miss Barbara at all our League functions, and as a friend. She asked for no services, but her family agreed that she would have appreciated donations in her memory to the charity of your choice, made with passion and dedication to its purpose, just as she lived her life.

Anne Hartline
LWVHC Voter Service Co-Director

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director





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.

Some Good News about the Environment

Would you like to read some good news about climate change? As the Natural Resources Director, I thought League members may enjoy a good news roundup. The following are brief news items of efforts great and small to learn more about climate change, to slow it down, and to build resilience. Web sites have been included to provide more information for those interested. However, web sites change, so the links may not remain viable.

We'll begin with something close to home: "Restoration contractors in California and Oregon will plant nearly 19 billion native seeds as part of efforts to restore land along the Klamath River that is currently dammed."

"A vacant lot outside Boston has been turned into a quarter-acre 'food forest.' Unlike community gardens, food forests mimic natural ecosystems, with a focus on native food-bearing plants that provide habitat for insects and birds. And as local Boston radio station [WBUR explains](#), anyone in the community can harvest food for free."

"Farmers in the Midwest are turning to millets, a highly resilient and cost-friendly grain, to keep growing in a changing climate. As [Harvest Public Media reports](#), the United Nations has declared 2023 the International Year of Millets to encourage more awareness and a bigger market for the extremely sustainable, weather-resilient, nutritious grain."

"Oklahoma has restored nearly 100 unhealthy streams thanks to water monitoring and regenerative agriculture." [Here's how they're regenerating the landscape one pasture at a time.](#)

"This Texas Girl Scout troop is tackling water conservation by doing everything other troops do — but underwater. As the Austin NPR radio station KUT reports, the Scuba Scouts is a special-interest troop where girls ages 12 to 17 can become certified scuba divers, taking their love for service to new depths — learning about local endangered species, researching reef-safe sunscreen and working with local businesses to switch to sustainable practices."

[The above were all found at the following website:](#)

<https://www.npr.org/2023/10/03/1202290614/good-news-climate-change-solutions>

"In a [new paper](#), scientists have argued that whales play an important, and overlooked, role as natural carbon

Some Good News about the Environment (continued)

sinks. The mammals accumulate carbon in their bodies during their lifetimes. Their longevity (they can live for up to 100 years) makes them “one of the largest stable living carbon pools” in the ocean, according to the study. When they die, they sink to the ocean floor, locking up carbon for centuries. Even their excrement helps, being rich in the nutrients required by phytoplankton – organisms that also absorb carbon.”

<https://theweek.com/news/environment/959905/climate-change-good-news-stories-for-the-planet-in-2023>

And we’ll end even closer to home with good news about the Nordic Fish Farms: “Last Thursday, the Coastal Commission unanimously approved a 5-year permit for Nordic Aquafarms to discharge tertiary-treated wastewater through the 1.5-mile long ocean outfall that was built for the pulp mill in the 1960s....As approved, the Coastal Development Permit includes [additional ocean monitoring requirements](#) that we've been calling for since 2021 to examine the effects of the discharge on the marine ecosystem. Coastal oceanography, water quality, and benthic habitat will be monitored for two years prior to any discharge to document current conditions. Once the facility begins to discharge, four rounds of monitoring will be required each year in spring and summer to inform a comparative evaluation of toxic algae and their toxins, plankton, and other organisms.”

Please click on the following link to read the entire story from Humboldt Water Keeper.

<https://humboldtwaterkeeper.org/news/latest/1758-nordic-aquafarms-ocean-discharge-permit-approved-with-major-improvements>

If you’re interested in news about the environment, here are a few local resources to tap: the Northcoast Environment Center (NEC) and its newsletter, *The EcoNews*; The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC); and Humboldt Water Keeper.

Leslie Leach

LWVHC Natural Resources Director



Directions to the Holiday Party at 2932 K Street, Eureka

My house is blue with white trim with a wrought iron fence around it at 2932 K Street in Eureka, on the corner of K and Wood Streets. Be assured, there is lots of parking available. Your phone will probably be your guide but just in case, the directions to my house, are as follows:

If you are coming into Eureka from North 101, turn left on H Street; take it to Harris Street; turn left on Harris, proceed to K Street and turn left at K Street (look for the Harris and K Market on Harris or look for an even bigger landmark, the Eureka water tower) go one block to Wood Street. You have arrived.

If you are coming into Eureka from South 101, take the exit to Harris Street to K Street; turn left on K Street (look for the Harris and K Market on Harris or look for an even bigger landmark, the Eureka water tower) go one block to Wood Street. You have arrived.

If you’re in Eureka already, get to Harris Street and turn on K Street; either right if you’re going west or left if you’re going east, go one block north on K Street to Wood Street. You have arrived.

If you need to phone me for any reason, please do. My number is 707-443-5280

Leslie Leach

LWVHC Natural Resources Director

Thank You, Volunteers

Once again, a big thank you to League volunteers who are always willing to help when we are conducting an election for the Wiyot Tribe. On October 7th **Dottie Riffenburg, Mary Ann Bansen, Helen Andrews, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Debbie Hartman and Janine Randall** each took a two-hour shift for the election. Janine also checked the P. O. Box before she came out to Table Bluff to get the very last mail-in ballots. We actually had a record number of mail-in ballots (51) for an election with no candidates for office but three propositions that were obviously controversial.

Thank you, League members for filling the time slots so I didn't have to ask any board members to help me! I figure Board Members are doing plenty of work anyway, and I like to involve our other members. And everyone who helps with an election always says how much they enjoy the work.

I also had good news from the Election Office, where we always have been able to request the loan of voting booths for those who vote in person. We now have the booths designated for our use and I just have to call and tell them what date I will need them. No more formal letters of request! Thank you to Juan Pablo Cervantes and the Election Office.

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director

Brief Items about Government on the Local, State, and National Level

Time is moving too fast for me. I cannot believe it is December. I hope you had a happy holiday despite all the chaos in our world.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to mention things that are happening in our governments. By now, you all know we have a new Senator, Laphonza Butler who was appointed by the Governor to fill Senator Feinstein's seat. What you may not know is that she has declared that she will not be running for election. So, we should see vigorous campaigning in the future.

Interesting to me, is who spends money on lobbying in our state. Chevron Corp. (\$10 million) and Western States Petroleum Assn. (\$5.3 million) were the biggest spenders. Makes you think about alternate energy sources. The energy companies were followed by Hawaiian Gardens Casino in LA (\$5.1million), bills regulating card rooms was their interest, and McDonald's (\$5million) who fought the \$20 an hour minimum wage for food service workers.

Fish farms and wind farms continue to make headlines locally. The California Coastal Commission has unanimously approved a coastal development permit for Nordic Aquafarms for the wastewater discharge from the proposed project. Congressman Jared Huffman announced that over \$8 million dollars was granted to Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District for the development of an offshore wind terminal. So, fish farming and wind energy are going to happen in Humboldt.

Our Board of Supervisors continues to deal with legal cannabis cultivation in the forms of Measure S, the tax on cannabis cultivation and Measure A, a cannabis cultivation initiative.

A few bits of information about the Inflation Reduction Act: It includes the building of safer sidewalks and bike lanes, expanding access to high-speed internet, and upgrading wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, seniors enrolled in a Part D drug plan will find that all vaccines recommended by the federal government are free.

Have a great holiday season and see you in the New Year.

Judy Bennett
LWVHC Government Director

League of Women Voters of Humboldt County 2023-2024 Calendar

2023	2024
<p>JULY</p> <p>7/22 10am-3pm Board Retreat</p>	<p>JANUARY</p> <p>1/2 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>1/18 Program (State) meeting</p>
<p>AUGUST</p> <p>No Board meeting</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>2/6 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>2/15 Program meeting</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>9/5 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>9/30 10-12n Membership Brunch</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>3/5 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>3/21 Program (Local) meeting</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>10/3 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>10/19 Program meeting</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <p>4/2 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>4/19 11:30 SOCL</p>
<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>11/7 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>11/16 Program meeting</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>5/7 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>5/30 5:30 Annual Meeting</p>
<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>12/12 5:30 Board meeting; 6:00 Holiday Party</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>6/4 5:30 Board meeting</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.

Annual Dues are due each year on July 1st

Visit 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
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.....Judy Bennett
- 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 a unique set of skills to contribute and limited time to afford. Working together we become a viable force for change. Call or email today to say you want to participate.

Visit www.lwvhc.org or call (707) 444-9252.

Our Diversity, 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, December 12 5:30 p.m. Board Meeting
2932 K Street, Eureka
or on Zoom

Tuesday, December 12 6:00 p.m. Holiday Party
2932 K Street, Eureka
In-person

LWVHC Webpage Any Time!

LWVHC X Any Time!

LWVHC Instagram Any Time!