

Save the Date for the 2026 State of the Community Luncheon

The League's annual State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL) will be held April 10, 2026, at the Adorni Center in Eureka. In its 33rd year, the catered luncheon attracts community, business, and political leaders throughout Humboldt County.

SOCL Committee Chair **Maggie Fleming** says the event "supports the League's mission to increase understanding of public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy." The SOCL serves as the main fundraiser for the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County. Ticket prices remain the same as previous years: \$75 per person; a table of eight is \$600, and a half table is \$300. All reservations must be made in advance. The March VOTER will provide details about making reservations.

The keynote speaker will be Susan Seaman, program director with North Edge: Business Financing and Community Development, formerly Arcata Economic Development Corporation.

Mike Wilson, Third District Supervisor Board of Supervisors Humboldt County will provide a report on the state of Humboldt County.

League of Women Voters of Humboldt County (LWVHC) member **Sue McIntyre** will MC the event this year.

Byrd Lochtie will present the annual Civic Contribution Award to Marilyn Tucker of Arcata, and to Betty and Gene Senestraro of Eureka, formerly of Fortuna. The award recognizes individuals or groups that have given significant volunteer work to better the Humboldt community. The March VOTER will include an article about the award recipients.

This year an entrée option is available, which is vegetarian, vegan, and dairy free. This option must be reserved in advance and noted when you send in your luncheon payment.

Attendees will also receive a copy of the LWVHC's Citizen's Guide to Humboldt County Government. The Guide is updated every year and features a comprehensive listing of Humboldt County's elected and appointed officials, Superior Court, and intergovernmental bodies, and appointed boards, commissions, and committees.

Anne Wasson
LWVHC SOCL Publicity Chair and Board Liaison

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.

Report on Official Board Actions at the January 13, 2026 Meeting

At our January 13, 2026 meeting, the LWVHC Board took following official actions:

Funding History Day 2026 Prizes:

It was moved / seconded and passed by a unanimous vote that we allocate \$800 for prizes for student participants in the Humboldt County Office of Education History Day 2026 from our “Special Projects” funding. Eight students with “winning” projects associated with voting rights will receive \$25 gift certificates to a local bookstore, and two \$300 scholarships will be awarded to two students going on to the State History Day competition to help with travel expenses.

Support for the “Blue Envelope” Program:

It was moved / seconded and passed by a unanimous vote that we send a letter of support and thanks to local agencies that are establishing the Blue Envelope Program. The program is designed to promote inclusivity and serve as an enhanced communication awareness tool between law enforcement and community members who have Autism Spectrum Disorder, dementia, Alzheimer’s, anxiety, or other conditions or disabilities that might require additional accommodations or awareness during a law enforcement interaction. The program was implemented locally in collaboration between Redwood Coast Regional Center, local police, the sheriff’s department, and other community partners.

Opposition to US HR 2289:

It was moved / seconded and passed by a unanimous vote that we send letters to Representative Huffman and to Senators Padilla and Schiff urging them to oppose HR 2289, the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025, because of the negative impact it will have on Public Access Television which is a key resource for observing and participating in local government meetings.

Funding for Production of 2026 Citizen’s Guide:

It was moved / seconded and passed by a unanimous vote that we approve paying \$1000 to our consultant to prepare and print the updated 2026 Citizen’s Guide for distribution at the 2026 State of the Community Luncheon.

Bonnie Oliver
LWVHC Secretary

LWVHC’s Appreciation for the Blue Envelope Program

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County would like to commend the Eureka Police Department for the recent implementation of the Blue Envelope Program. The Blue Envelope Program is designed to improve communication and understanding between law enforcement and all members of the public who have conditions or disabilities that may require an accommodation when interacting with law enforcement.

This program was initially implemented by the Rio Dell Police Department with Arcata PD, the CHP, Fortuna PD, Ferndale PD, Blue Lake Tribal PD, and Cal Poly Humboldt PD also adopting the program.

The Blue Envelope Program provides a simple, effective tool to make traffic stops and other encounters with law enforcement safer, calmer, and more considerate for everyone involved. The League’s position on Behavioral Health Services and Public Health Services integrates well with this program to provide behavioral health care for all people of Humboldt County. The League supports the Eureka PD, as well as the other police departments, in this innovative program. Well done!

Peggy Syvertson
LWVHC Program Director

News from Access Humboldt

These are busy times for Access Humboldt, our local public access TV and radio.

It faces threats of funding cuts from Congress via AB2289

It is setting up the Boot Camp for non-profits to learn fundraising tips

It is still looking for a new home by the end of May!

First, your local League Board has already sent a letter opposing AB2289. However, as individuals, you can send letters, emails, or faxes opposing AB2289 too, indicating how the loss of Access Humboldt would affect you. Address them to Jared Huffman, Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff. AB2289 *says* it is about getting out broadband to everyone but, while it may do that, it takes away a lot of local control and tells cable companies they no longer have to help fund public access channels, as they have been required to do since the 1970s. A sample letter that you may modify is on p.4.

Second, Access Humboldt is setting up the Bold Day of Giving Boot Camp – training for 501(c)3 agencies to effectively raise money. The Bold Day of Giving itself is Friday, May 29. The Boot Camp biweekly sessions are on Thursdays from Feb. 5 until May 14. There will be eight 2-hour sessions from 9:30-11:30 am at the CR Theater Building (next to the Administration Building. Please see p. 5 for more information. I know League members are very involved in our community, so please share the above information and the information on p.5 with people involved in non-profits you love.

Third, Access Humboldt has to move out of its CR location by the end of May and is actively looking for a site with around 6000 square feet. If you have any suggestions, please let Janet (janet.foos@gmail.com) or Molly (awestruckliving@gmail.com) know and they will share the info with Access Humboldt.

For more information, you can go to AccessHumboldt.net, also on Facebook as Access Humboldt.

Janet Foos
LWVHC Access Humboldt Board Liaison

Welcome New Members

Madeline McMurray

Natalie Racanelli

February Membership Meeting

The February Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday February 19, 2026 at 6:30. The meeting will be on Zoom (link to follow in separate email). The topic will be our Education Position Update. League member ***Corinne Frugoni*** will chair the meeting, with the special presenter being Danielle Witten, Librarian and Literacies Learning Specialist from the Humboldt County Office of Education.

Please plan on attending to hear this important update to our position and ask any question you may have. Hope to see you there!

Peggy Syvertson
LWVHC Program Director

Please Take the Time to Oppose H.R. 2289. Make Democracy Work!

Please send a separate letter to each of the members of Congress listed below.

Rep. Jared Huffman
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Senator Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Adam B. Schiff
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: H.R. 2289 (American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025)

Dear

I am writing to alert you to the potential danger of the passage of H.R. 2289 (American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025) to organizations like Access Humboldt that provide Public Educational and Government (PEG) access services to local communities throughout the United States. If passed, Access Humboldt, like the other PEG centers, would lose a large proportion of their funding – which would greatly reduce its offerings, perhaps even ending the service altogether. Our local community is both low-income and rural, relying on our Public Access television stations to broadcast local governmental meetings as they are happening so that people in all parts of the county can watch and participate. The meeting broadcasts are also archived so that people can watch meetings they were not able to see live. This keeps all our governmental bodies more accountable to the people they serve.

Access Humboldt also offers the technology and training for organizations and individuals in our community to make their own programs, showcasing what is important to them while greatly enriching our community. Additionally, Access Humboldt collaborates with schools and other educational bodies to provide technical training and other educational services to those throughout our community. Through the efforts of Access Humboldt, neither distance nor lack of transportation are barriers to participation and learning.

H.R. 2289 is misnamed; instead of promoting broadband deployment, it allows corporations to break or alter existing agreements that provide cable and broadband in communities like ours. These cable agreements lie at the heart of the ability of Public Access TV stations like Access Humboldt to receive reliable funding in order to operate community television channels, teach production and communication skills, and create original content that represents the interests of our local community. Passage of H.R. 2289 would fundamentally alter the power of our local communities to negotiate with corporations and would threaten the future of the over 1600 organizations throughout the U.S. that operate Public Educational and Government (PEG) access channels.

H.R. 2289 is not a bi-partisan effort and was passed out of Committee with no testimony from the local and state governments that represent the legitimate interests of residents and cable and broadband consumers throughout the country. The bill's promoters talk of clearing "regulatory underbrush" to ensure that broadband is extended to all areas of the country. And yet that "underbrush" ensures that the rights of all communities – rural, suburban or urban - are respected when negotiating with corporate interests, and that communities with little power have a place at the bargaining table and a voice in the media.

We know that you appreciate the work that Access Humboldt does to promote democracy and culture at the local level. Access Humboldt can only do this work because of the rights and the funding that H.R. 2289 wishes to eliminate. We urge you and your colleagues to oppose its passage in this Congress.

Thank you for your consideration to voting NO on H.R. 2289.

Sincerely,
Your Name

News for Nonprofits of Humboldt County from Access Humboldt

In 2025 We Raised \$12,789 For Humboldt Nonprofits!

Our major fundraising activities are building community even more than they are sustaining AH.

March: We spread the word about Sunshine Week (national week to affirm the crucial role of independent journalism in our democracy) by raising money to equip broadcasting backpacks containing \$7000 worth of production equipment for citizen journalists to check out from local libraries. We raised the money to equip one such backpack.

May: encouraged 14 other local nonprofits to join us in raising funds on the Bold Day of Giving. This year we are hoping to work with and help train as many as 50 nonprofits to do the same.

September: BoldtFEST, initiated as an ongoing program to assist and honor screenwriters and other media producers.

Molly Cate
LWVHC Member

The following information is from Access Humboldt.

Did you participate as a Nonprofit, Donor, or Sponsor? That makes you part of the inaugural group that forged ahead boldly with Access Humboldt! In 2025, we were trying to respond in "crisis mode" and deliver a major regional giving day in just a few weeks. Fourteen Organizations benefited from the use of our platform and 24 Nonprofits benefited from BOLD Day Of TV (a marathon of live interviews that resulted in 24 ten-minute videos gifted to the Organizations).

This year, we are starting early and will be able to deliver all of the tools, training, and mentorship that will bolster your efforts and make BOLD Day Of Giving 2026 a smashing success!

Register & Pay TODAY to get:

- 8 Week Workbook
- BOLD Day of Giving Bootcamps
- Yard Signs
- Regional advertising including screens and billboards
- Social Media & Email templates
- Matchfunding & Prizes
- First 50 Non Profit Organizations registered get TV & Radio interviews on BOLD Day Of TV.

To register your nonprofit, click on the link below or go to the Access Humboldt website.

Register soon! The deadline for registration has been extended until the end of February.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczrSR-gdqaU6yleQ4iabOnAt2iFozD90AdAPKrzTn_TfW9hQ/viewform

Thank You to So Many Wonderful Volunteers!

Once again, I offer a big thank you to all the volunteers who stepped up at the last minute to help with candidate forums for the Bear River Tribal Election. This occurred just four days after I returned home from almost three weeks of vacation in Montana, so I was really scrambling to get this organized.

Anne Hartline was such a great help! She did more than five hours of work because there are four positions up for election on March 14th, and we planned a separate forum for each position: Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Member-at-Large (seat 1), and Member-at-Large (seat 2).

Only one person from the Bear River Election Committee was available to help. Added to the time frame was the fact that I needed to leave in the middle of the day for personal reasons. So, a great big thank you to Roseann Thomas from the Bear River Election Committee, who learned the job of question sorter. Thank you to Brittany Gonzalez and her staff who set up and monitored the online presence and questions that came in that way. I'd also like to mention that audience participation was amazing and that, in one of the afternoon forums, the candidates had to respond to 25 quite varied questions!

And now a big thank you to these wonderful League volunteers: **Anne Hartline**—moderator and question sorter; **Peggy Syvertson**—timer; **Janet Foos**, **Kay Escarda**, and **Janine Randall**—question sorters; **Sharolyn and Christina Hutton**—ushers. This was a long day, and I really appreciate all these dedicated volunteers who helped us provide information to tribal voters about their candidates for tribal office. Democracy in action!



L-R: **Anne Hartline**, Roseann Thomas, **Kay Escarda**, and **Janet Foos**



More Volunteers Needed!

One more call for volunteers for the Bear River Election on Saturday, March 14, 2026.

I will need two or three people all day long, in two-hour shifts, to help conduct the actual election between 8 am and 4 pm.

I'll need at least two people to help set up at 7:30 am, and three people to join me in counting the votes at 4 pm. That may take as long as one to two hours, depending on how long it takes to be sure we are completely accurate.

You can email me at byrdloch@aol.com or call me at 707-498-6610 to let me know when you would like to help.

Thank you!

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director

League of Women Voters Humboldt County 2026 Calendar

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

January 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 1/13, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 1/22, 6:30 pm. Zoom Topic: LWVUS Program Planning	April 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 4/14, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 4/16, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Local Program Planning SOCL: 4/10
February 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 2/10, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 2/19, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Education Position Update	May 2026 <u>Avenue of the Giants:</u> 5/3 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 5/12, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom
March 2026 <u>Board Meeting:</u> 3/10, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom <u>Sunshine Week:</u> 3/16-3/20 <u>Membership Meeting:</u> 3/26, 6:30 pm, Zoom Topic: Civil Grand Jury System Position Update	June 2026 <u>Annual Meeting:</u> 6/2, 6 pm, Location TBA <u>Board Meeting:</u> 6/9, 5:30 pm, Tess Coffman's home

Pints for Profits

We participated in our second (first at this location) Pints for Nonprofits at Six Rivers Brewery in McKinleyville on January 14th! **Tess Coffman**, **Peggy Syvertson**, and I, with appearances from **Becky Simpson** and **Anne Hartline**, tabled from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

We sold some of our new merch, gave out some LWVHC handouts, and chatted with folks about the work we do in the community.

Everyone had a great time - hope to see you all at the next one!

Jessica Schlachter
Communications 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.

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

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

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

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

I am enclosing payment for my annual membership renewal:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____



The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502

www.lwvhc.org

leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org

(707) 444-9252

Who's Who in Your 2025-2026 League Board

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





P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

Get Involved!

We all have unique skills to contribute and limited time. Working together we become a viable force for change. Call or email today to say you want to participate. Visit www.lwvhc.org or call (707) 444-9252.

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

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

LWVHC Calendar

Tuesday, February 10 5:30 pm	Board Meeting UCC Church/Zoom 900 Hodgson Street Eureka, CA In-person
Zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82436363821?pwd=kAnTSbGXQI88VncVvrFgooTOtRpvv3.1	
Thursday, February 19 6:30 pm Topic: Education Position Update	Membership Meeting: Zoom only
Anytime	LWVHC Webpage LWVHC Instagram LWVHC X Bluesky @lwvhc.bsky.social