

Dear League Members,

President's Message

The year got off to a good start as the members met to discuss the state positions and where we wish the State League to focus their attention. Thank you, **Judy Bennett** for doing such a terrific job organizing and leading the meeting. Look to the article on the meeting in this VOTER about this informative and productive meeting.

February 7 will be another opportunity for members to learn about the League's position on Hazardous Waste and learn from an expert on what is the current situation regarding hazardous waste in the community. Thank you, **Leslie Leach** for organizing the meeting and finding an expert, Maje Hoyos, to speak at the meeting. Be sure to tune into this interesting meeting.

Later in the month we are planning a meeting on our Public Health position. Thank you, **Molly Cate** for working on that project. Stay tuned for more information. Both meetings will take place on Zoom, and members will be notified of both meetings by email.

The League also reaches out to the state legislators to hear their views and what they are planning for the upcoming year. **Judy Bennett** again has been instrumental in setting up meetings, coordinating with the Sonoma, Mendocino, and Marin Leagues, to have the interviews with Senator Mike McGuire and Representative Dr. Jim Wood. Thank you for getting that in place, Judy. We look forward to hearing from our legislators.

And thank you to all **our members** for your support of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County. It enables the team to stay in tune to what is happening in our community and how this League can keep our members informed and fulfill our mission.

Deborah Downs
LWVHC President



Thank You Nominating Committee

I would like to thank our hard-working Nominating Committee members for completing their work so quickly, diligently, and efficiently. They have secured an excellent slate of potential Board Members and Officers for election at the Annual Meeting in May. Thank you, **Judy Bennett**, Chair, **Maggie Fleming**, **Judy Stoffer**, **Anne Hartline**, and **Becky Simpson**. You are all the best!

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Governance Committee Chair

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.

Board Briefs

Legislative Interview update

State League asks that we do this every year. Our task is to interview our state legislators, asking specific questions of the legislators as written by LWVC. **Judy Bennett** is chairing this endeavor. She is hard at work coordinating with other California Leagues who have the same legislators (Jim Wood and Mike McGuire). Board members **Byrd Lochtie**, **Deborah Downs** and **Jessica Schlachter** expressed interest in being part of the process. Judy will write an article for The VOTER once the interviews are completed.

Hazardous Waste Position Review Feb. 7, 2 p.m. on Zoom

Leslie Leach announced that Maje Hoyos, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist, Hazardous Materials Unit, DHHS Public Health Division of Environmental Health, Humboldt County, has agreed to speak at the membership meeting on Sunday, February 7, when the Hazardous Waste position will be reviewed and discussed.

Public Health Services Position Review Feb. 25, 5:30 p.m. on Zoom

Molly Cate is planning this meeting.

League Historical Record

Deborah Downs, **Byrd Lochtie** and Stacy Becker of HSU met to discuss the possibility of having one (or more) HSU intern work to digitize/archive our historical scrapbooks, as well as curate current information.

Byrd complimented Judy and the Nominating Committee for their hard work on filling the 2021/2022 Board.

Anne Hartline

LWVHC Secretary

State Program Planning

“Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink”* is not what our members want for California. **Leslie Leach**, our natural resources director, had convincing arguments for why water should be our priority issue for emphasis for State Program Planning.

We had 19 members in attendance and we telecommunicated with Zoom.

After a brief explanation of program, we learned that directions from the League of Women Voters California this year included concentrating on issues for emphasis that would result in successes. LWVC was not interested in a new study but directed us more to areas of action.

Presenters began with an overview of state positions in three portfolios, natural resources, social policy and government. Leslie told us about the positions in her portfolio and those that interested her most. This was followed by **Molly Cate**, social policy director, doing the same, and then **Judy Bennett** speaking about government positions at the state level. Each of the presenters had definite areas of interest and explained why.

Our discussions were lively and informative, and we came to agreement about where we wanted LWVC to work in the next two years. Our League wants LWVC to work on WATER.

The results were as follows:

Water (in the Natural Resources portfolio) received the most votes. Members specifically felt that water impacted climate change, agriculture and survival for our state. The following links were given to us by Leslie to

reinforce the impact water has on our lives. [LWV Water Rates in the Age of Efficiency and Equity](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5082906327938853392)
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5082906327938853392>

Education and more work on restoring funding for schools and continuing to work on Prop. 15 placed second in terms of member priority. That was followed by housing and the impact mental health has on homelessness.

Though not in the top three, the group wanted to see more action with criminal justice reform and redistricting as it impacts the North Coast. We then discussed the lack of Broadband access to rural parts of our county and how our children are missing out on education because of the pandemic and lack of internet access. That is how we voted about what we want LWVC to do for the next two years.

*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Judy Bennett
LWVHC Program Planning Committee Chair

Hazardous Waste Position Review Meeting
Sunday, February 7 at 2:00 p.m.

It's time for us to get together to discuss an important topic: hazardous waste. The LWVHC position on Hazardous Waste from the natural resources portfolio is up for review this year. Maje Hoyos will join us to add her expertise to our discussion. Ms. Hoyos is the Supervising Environmental Materials Health Specialist, Hazardous Materials Unit, DHHS Public Health Division of Environmental Health.

Reviewing positions is important League work. It helps us to be sure that our positions are up to date, thorough, and able to support League advocacy and education. The Hazardous Waste position was last reviewed ten years ago. You will find the positions on hazardous waste in the Annual Meeting Kit under Natural Resources or you can go on-line to this link: <https://my.lwv.org/california/humboldt-county/position/natural-resources-hazardous-wastes-humboldt-county-1985-2011>.

Leaguers, we need your ideas, your questions, your input. Please join us Sunday, February 7 at 2:00 p.m..

Public Health Services Position Review Meeting
Thursday, February 25 at 5:30 p.m.

This year's social policy position for us to review is Public Health Services. How very timely! The pandemic has brought more attention than usual to public health. And yet, there is more to consider than Covid-19 response.

Why should you attend? Attending a position review meeting is a great way to get your voice heard and helps shape the direction of the local League's education and advocacy actions. League action must be based on a position we have crafted after study and consensus. Each position comes up for review periodically to keep it relevant. We last reviewed our position on Public Health Services in 2011.

Take a look at our Public Health Services position summary and the six sub-positions printed in your Annual Meeting Kit or on the LWVHC website. Here's the link: <https://my.lwv.org/california/humboldt-county/position/social-policy-public-health-services-humboldt-county-1974-2011>.

Then, mark your calendar and plan on joining us Thursday, February 25 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. Look for an invitation through your email.

Remembering Dan Taranto



Dan was born August 29 in Ohio in 1942 as Daniel Joseph de Silva but grew up in Richmond, CA. He adopted his stepfather's name and was known widely locally as Dan Taranto.

Dan joined the Navy and served during the Vietnam War. After honorable discharge, he accompanied a friend to Arcata to check out and enroll at Humboldt State University where he earned his master's degree in Botany. He developed a new and sophisticated slide technique for the student lab he staffed there.

Dan bought, rehabbed and managed many properties over the years. He was proud to provide affordable housing to many students and "working folks," many who became lifelong friends. His home base was his beloved acreage in Fieldbrook. He was active in the United Stand organization and instrumental in the creation of the Alternative Owner Builder (AOB) program. He served on several County Housing Element Committees over the years.

A major focus of his volunteer efforts was service on the County Grand Jury, where he reorganized its function, and later did the same for the California Grand Jurors' Association as state president. As state president, he advocated for permanent jury reports in the state archives, support and training for incoming jurors and other reforms. He worked with then-Sen. Quinten Kopp to pass state legislation requiring all counties to respond in writing to local jury findings. His local jury instituted a requirement for a written response to jury findings. Dan paid for an insert in the local paper and personally delivered stacks of it throughout Humboldt County. In his further quest for government transparency, he personally installed the first camera in the Supervisor's Chambers, which came as quite a surprise to some of the supervisors and staff!

Dan was a man of great intellect with wide and varied interests. He crewed on sailboats from Canada to Mexico, owned some of historical significance, and was a member of the Humboldt Yacht Club. He raised an assortment of plants and animals, most notably sheep, goats and his Watutsi livestock. He had a vast collection of books encompassing science, history, astronomy, religion and literature. Dan volunteered with the Westhaven and Fieldbrook Fire Departments. He was an early and active member of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County where he participated in a number of local studies. He volunteered yearly for the Jazz Festival and loved Blues by the Bay. He was known to be a hard worker, well liked and respected by a wide swath of people.

With no prior dance experience, Dan started tango lessons at age 68. He dove in "with both feet" practicing, recording the music, travelling locally and to Mexico to take workshops and dancing in the yearly Student Showcase. He became quite good at the art. He vowed to dance to the end. His dancing days ended when he had a stroke, but he continued watching hours of tango online and attending local dance events. He made many friends in the tango community.

He died on January 14 from complications of the stroke.

He is survived by his brother Richard Taranto and nieces Lacey and Logan Taranto. He was preceded in death by his mother Barbara and stepfather, Frank Taranto, his brother Mark Taranto, former spouse Kathy Kistler, and numerous friends and distant relatives. Thanks and appreciation go to the staff of Frye's Care home and the many good and faithful friends who supported Dan.

Kay Escarda
LWVHC Member

Could YOU serve on the Civil Grand Jury?

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County has a position on the Humboldt County Grand Jury System that supports improved understanding of and participation in the Civil Grand Jury System. Specific points address increased information to the public about the system, support of a Civil Grand Jury composed of willing citizens, and encouraging the Jury Commissioner to distribute recruitment information to prospective jurors through all available media outlets.

In keeping with those positions, we are including here information from Kim M. Bartleson, Court Executive Officer/Jury Commissioner of Humboldt County, who wrote to prospective jurors in December 2020 with the following information.

- The Superior Court of California, Humboldt County, is formulating a list of prospective civil grand jurors, from which 19 local citizens will be empaneled as an independent body to investigate and review citizens' complaints concerning the operations of city and county government .
 - The civil grand jury does NOT consider criminal indictments.
 - The civil grand jury will publish a report with findings and recommendations for possible improvements to the quality and effectiveness of local governments.
- The jury will serve from January to December 2021

Requirements to serve are:

- Citizen of the United States
- 18 years old or older
- Resident of Humboldt County for at least one year before selection
- In possession of natural faculties, of ordinary intelligence, of sound judgement and fair character
- Sufficient knowledge of the English language
- Not currently serving as a trial juror in any court in California
- Has not been convicted of malfeasance in office or other high crime
- Has not been discharged as a grand juror in any court in California within one year

Not serving as an elected public official

At the current time, because of the pandemic restrictions, meetings are held on Zoom rather than in person. Currently, the civil grand jury meets on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings each week. Although the term runs from January to December, they are still looking for volunteers to put on the list.

If you are interested, visit the Court's website at www.humboldt.courts.ca.gov and email your application to GrandJuryApps@humboldtcourt.ca.gov. Or call 707-269-1245 (Human Resources for the Courts) to request an application be sent to you.

Byes Lochtie

LWVHC Governance Committee Chair

Here we stand looking out to the great Mall where Dr. King spoke of his dream. Here we stand, where 108 years ago at another inaugural, thousands of protesters tried to block brave women from marching for the right to vote.

Today, we mark the swearing-in of the first woman in American history elected to national office — Vice President Kamala Harris. Don't tell me things can't change.

From President Joseph Biden's Inaugural Address

California Plumbing

During the 20th century, [water project developers](#) relied on engineered infrastructure to serve Californians' economic aspirations and lifestyle choices in a region that doesn't have regular rainfall. Principal examples:

- The [Los Angeles Aqueduct](#) moves water to Southern California from the eastern side of the Sierras, originally for agriculture and later for urban development..
- The [Colorado River Aqueduct](#) and the [All American Canal](#) serve urban Southern California and agriculture in the Imperial and Coachella valleys.
- The federal [Central Valley Project \(CVP\)](#) system of dams, reservoirs and canals serves mostly Central Valley agriculture, but also the Central Coast and urban users in Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties.
- The [Hetch Hetchy Project](#), originating in Yosemite, delivers Tuolumne River water across the San Joaquin Valley to the greater San Francisco Bay Area.
- The [Mokelumne Aqueduct](#) delivers water to urban users in the East Bay Area.
- The [State Water Project \(SWP\)](#) system of dams, reservoirs, and canals moves water originally identified as "surplus" in the north to meet varied demands occurring in coastal areas, the San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California.

The last four of these projects impact the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. In 2008, the State Water Resources Control Board reported that the [water rights](#) they managed in the Bay/Delta Watershed exceed mean annual natural flow: for every acre foot of water in the Delta Watershed, 8.4 acre feet of water have been promised on paper.

Ongoing water battles between regions, and between urban and agricultural users, reflect "paper water" or other unrealistic expectations that actual supplies cannot reliably meet. When supplies have fallen short of expectations, the [Water Board](#) has been pressured to deliver water anyway, even at the expense of endangered species and the health of the people and ecosystem of the Delta and Estuary. When there is no surface water to deliver, users have turned to groundwater, overdrafting it to compensate.

Each of the major water projects faces supply, environmental, and climate challenges that planners did not anticipate. It is no longer clear that more infrastructure is the answer.

Jane Wagner-Tyack
Co-chair, LWVC Water Committee

Please see the [map of Major California Water Infrastructure](#) on the next page.

Image from UC Irvine Energy Blog

Major California Water Infrastructure



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

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

Who's Who in Your 2020-2021 League Board

- 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 DirectorNancy Kay
- Communication Director.....**VACANT**
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter





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 Policy

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!

LWVHC Calendar

Sun., Feb. 7 2:00 p.m.	Hazardous Waste Position Review Zoom
Tue., Feb. 9 5:30 PM	Board Meeting Zoom
Thurs., Feb 25 5:30 p.m.	Public Health Services Position Review Zoom
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
