

President's Message

As we head into a new year the classic stories of giving and love help us reflect and gain perspective into how our choices help others. One of my favorite stories is the Christmas Carol. It shows the reality of chosen perspectives and reminds us to look for the good in our world. "While there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good-humor."

Thank you for always inspiring me to help and learn from this beautiful community.

Happy Happy New Year!!

Julie Kelly
LWVHC President



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 December 13, 2024 Meeting

The Board met briefly on Dec. 13 prior to our annual LWVHC Membership Holiday Party. The Board took the following "official actions":

Review and Approval of the MOU with the Wiyot Tribe for 2025-26:

Byrd Lochtie presented the updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Wiyot Tribe to assist at Tribal elections for 2025-26. She answered board member questions on the history of this LWVHC relationship with the tribe. It was moved, seconded, and passed with a unanimous vote that we approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Wiyot Tribe for 2025-26.

Review and Approval of the 2025 SOCL Civic Contribution Award Nominee Recommendations:

It was moved, seconded, and passed with a unanimous vote that we approve the California Retired Teachers Association, North Coast Division 27 and the Humboldt County Election Transparency Project as the 2025 State of the Community Luncheon Civic Contribution Award recipients.

Bonnie Oliver
LWVHC Secretary

Join Your Friends on April 25, 2025 for the SOCL

The State of the Community Luncheon Committee, headed by **Maggie Fleming**, has set the date of Friday, April 25 for the League's annual luncheon to be held at the Adorni Center in Eureka. Hope to see you there!

The annual luncheon is the League's major fundraiser as well as a time to hear from community leaders, including the Chair of the Board of Supervisors and to celebrate individuals and groups that make our community a better place.

In April, we will present Civic Contribution Awards to two groups that contribute their efforts to projects supporting an informed citizenry: California Retired Teachers Association, North Coast Division 27 and the Humboldt County Election Transparency Project. Learn more about these two hard working groups at the luncheon!

Watch your VOTER and check our website for information about ticket purchase and details. The luncheon tends to sell out, so we recommend you plan ahead. See you there, April 25!

Debbe Hartridge
LWVHC SOCL Committee

ChapterSpot Membership Renewal and Joining the League

ChapterSpot is coming from LWVUS, a new platform for renewing your membership and for joining. Soon there will be a STRIPE button to pay your dues on our website for this purpose. Watch this space.

If you have any questions, please contact me at either the email address or the phone number listed below.

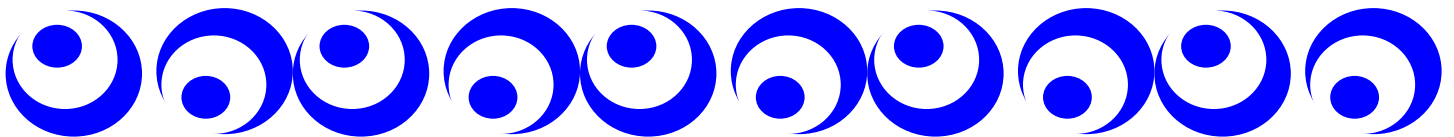
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SIMPSON2.REBECCA@GMAIL.COM

707-498-6340

Becky Simpson
LWVHC Membership Director



Speak Your Mind: Choosing State League Priorities

Come one! Come all! Share your ideas. Let your voice be heard.

On Thursday, January 16, starting at 6:30 p.m. the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County is hosting a Zoom meeting to gather your thoughts on issues to be tackled by the League of Women Voters of California for the next two years. That's what it means to be a grassroots organization: we rely on **you** to set the League direction.

Defining our direction, in League parlance that's what "Program" is all about. Program defines where we put our education and advocacy energies. At the state level that means what we want for the future of California.

What are the issues of concern to us? Where is there a need for legislative activity and other action? Where can we have the greatest impact? At the meeting on January 16, we can select up to three "Issues for Emphasis" for the LWVC to focus on.

Invite your friends too! This is an excellent opportunity to introduce non-members to how the League works. Although only League members can participate in the consensus process, everyone is very welcome to chime in and to share what topics matter to them. We're inviting quite a few community folks from other organizations and institutions to the meeting for that very purpose.

Look for several e-blast reminders (and the Zoom link) in the next few weeks. Please place this meeting on your calendar and plan to join us for this precious exercise of democracy.

Molly Cate
LWVHC Program Director

The LWVHC Needs Observers to Take the Lead on Civil Engagement

In recent years, the organized LWVHC observer corps and related action committee have been dormant. Concerned board members have initiated advocacy actions in 2024 about decisions made by the Eureka City Schools Board and opposed the heavily promoted Measure F in Eureka during the November election. Those actions were important; however, with a designated member-participation observer corps, LWVHC could do more to protect government transparency and accountability.

Designated observers commit themselves to attend (in-person, on Zoom, or by watching public access broadcasts) meetings of a specific key public body for a period of time, like a year. They monitor the business of that body for issues that correlate to League positions, whether local, state or national League. Current examples are housing, climate planning, mental health, and wind turbines.

The observers are asked to report issues and concerns back to a corps manager. When issues are evaluated to be appropriate for League action based on positions in place, the observer will work with an action committee to create the advocacy.

Members often say they like the education they get from observing, both about the public body and about League positions. You can learn more about the Observer Corps on the LWVHC website.

Are you willing to be an observer? Contact me, **Sylvia Shaw**, to discuss the possibilities. My email address is sls500@yahoo.com and my phone number is 707-599-1563.

Toasting civil engagement in 2025,
Sylvia Shaw
LWVHC Social Policy Director

The LWVHC Holiday Party 2024: A Good Time was Had by All



Ed Gingras with League members **Kay Escarda** and **Helen Andrews**

The weather outside was frightful, but the gathering of LWVHC members and friends was quite delightful! Thank you for hosting, Julie.



League members **Anne Wasson**, **Patricia-Anne** and **George WinterSun**



League members **Bonnie Oliver**, **Jessica** and **Dan Schlachter**



League members **Cindy Humphry**, **Sylvia Shaw**, and **Peggy Syvertson**



League member **Byrd Lochtie**



League member **Janet Foss**



League members **Jessica Schlachter**, **Julie Kelly**, **Leslie Leach**, and **Bonnie Oliver**



League members **Kathy Johanson** and **Sharolyn Hutton**

Thinking about the Future Now

I am looking for a League member (or members) to assist me for the next **Avenue of the Giants Marathon** on **May 4, 2025**. It's always run on the first Sunday in May. I want to train someone to take over the station for 2026. There's really not a lot to do. The runner's club provides all of the supplies, and we provide the volunteer staff.

I will have chaired the aid station some 60+ times by then. I love going out to the redwoods after a long winter, seeing the sun come through the trees, knowing the runners appreciate our help and adding \$500 or so to the League coffers! What's not to like? I will be glad to help, but I will be 89 next year and 90 (fingers crossed) by 2026, so it's time to pass the baton! It's easier to ease into it rather than jump in at the last minute. So, who will step up? Call me and let's talk.

707-442-7495.

Kay Escarda

LWVHC Avenue of the Giants Marathon Chair

707-442-7495.



Editor's Note

The June 2024 VOTER had an article about the Avenue of the Giants Marathon and it included Kay's first request for help that's in the above article. Kay is asking for a volunteer to organize an annual opportunity to help the LWVHC get positive publicity and money. I admit that I haven't been in charge of the marathon, but I have helped out at the event, and it's fun. Most of the organizing is getting a volunteer staff. As Kay says, "The runner's club provides all of the supplies, and we provide the volunteer staff." You can probably call on some of Kay's former volunteers to help as well as your own family and friends as well as other League members.

Mixing water and Gatorade powder, pouring water and Gatorade into cups, setting the cups of water and Gatorade on tables, and handing them to runners while shouting "Good job, or Doing great" is not difficult. And as a bonus, you get to bond with volunteers in a beautiful setting.

I'm hoping someone with enthusiasm and energy will call Kay soon to volunteer. Oh, and remember, you are a volunteer, and you won't be expected to volunteer 60+ times! Finally, Kay is great company, so if you step up, not only will she be there to help you, but also you'll have a good time while helping the League.

Leslie Leach

LWVHC VOTER Editor

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 2024-2025 League Board

- President.....Julie Kelly
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Bonnie Oliver
- Treasurer.....Michelle Vassel
- Program Director.....Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Cindy Humphry
- Social Policy Director.....Sylvia Shaw
- Government Director.....Peggy Syvertson
- 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.....Karen Price
- Communications Director.....Jessica Schlachter
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Website Director.....Leslie Leach
- Director.....Kathy Johanson





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 January 7
5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting
in person at Babe's,
Pizza and Pasta
4015 Walnut Drive
Eureka, CA

or on Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88910627631pwd=86i5L042DOBrImhiaA9mMj3oBQiHil.1>

Thursday, January 16
6:00 p.m.

Membership Meeting
Program for LWVC

Anytime

LWVHC Webpage
LWVHC Instagram
LWVHC X