



# THE VOTER

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 67 No. 1

January 2026

## *The 2025-2026 League of Women Voters of Humboldt County Board of Directors*



Back Row L-R: Corinne Frugoni, Tess Coffman, and Jessica Schlachter

Middle Row L-R: Byrd Lochtie, Karen Price, Janet Foos, Kathy Johanson, Anne Wasson, Becky Simpson, Suzanne McClurkin-Nelson, and Leslie Leach

Front Row L-R: Julie Kelly, Claire Eyton, Peggy Syvertson, Bonnie Oliver, and Anne Hartline



### ***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.

## ***2026 Civic Contribution Awardees Chosen***

The LWVHC Board of Directors has chosen two awardees to receive the League's 2026 Civic Contribution Award -- Marilyn Tucker and Betty and Gene Senestraro.

Marilyn Tucker, of Arcata, has contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to the Friends of the Redwood Libraries over the past 38 years. Her work has helped make the group a vital resource for the Humboldt County Library. Elected to multiple board officer positions, Marilyn served as president or vice president for 12 years. She edited and published the Friends's newsletter for nearly 20 years. In addition, she was instrumental in the Children's Art Calendar, Children's Author Festival, and quarterly book sales, and she worked to get donated books into Humboldt County schools.

Betty and Gene Senestraro, of Eureka and formerly of Fortuna, have given their time and talent for 80 years of their adult lives to the betterment of Humboldt County's dairy and agricultural communities. Long-time dairy ranchers in Humboldt County, they are active volunteers in Italian heritage organizations and at St. Joseph's hospital – Betty for 45 years and Gene for 30. Betty has been the consummate organizer and planner for the Eureka Women's Club and the Red Hat Ladies Club civic projects. Gene, through his service on the Farm Bureau Board, had a leading role in shaping Farm Bureau policy in postwar Humboldt County. He served on multiple regional and state Farm Bureau boards: the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Milk Advisory Board, the County Planning Commission, St. Bernard's Parish Finance Committee, the 4-H Leaders Council, and the Board of South Bay Elementary School District.

Marilyn Tucker and Betty and Gene Senestraro will receive their awards at the LWVHC's annual State of the Community Luncheon, April 10, 2026, at the Adorni Center in Eureka.

*Anne Wasson*  
*LWVHC SOCL Publicity Chair and Board Liaison*

## ***Access Humboldt's Boot Camp for the Bold Day of Giving***

Access Humboldt is getting ready to start its Boot Camp for the Bold Day of Giving which happens May 29. Their goal is to have fifty non-profit 501(c)3 organizations participate this year to raise money for their own organizations. The Boot Camp begins February 5 and meets eight times in two-hour sessions through mid-May.

This training is an intensive program to help non-profits fundraise using story-based messaging. Members from organizations that participated last year were very impressed with all they learned and the money they raised. The League of Women Voters of Humboldt is currently a 501(c)4 organization and, as such, cannot participate. But if you are involved with other non-profits that are 501c(3) organizations, encourage them to contact Access Humboldt to sign up for the Boot Camp and the Bold Day of Giving. The cost of the Boot Camp is on a sliding scale, based on the size of the organization.

Unfortunately, Congress just passed, and the President signed, HR 2289, a bill that makes even deeper cuts to the funding for public access programming, so fundraising will become even more important!

Access Humboldt has to move out of its CR location by 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](mailto:janet.foos@gmail.com)) or Molly ([awestruckliving@gmail.com](mailto:awestruckliving@gmail.com)) know, and we will share the information with Access Humboldt.

*Janet Foos*  
*LWVHC Access Humboldt Liaison*

## Save the Date!

### PINTS FOR NONPROFITS

Six Rivers Brewery, McKinleyville  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Fundraiser: 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
League tabling: 4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

\$1 from every beer sold will go directly to the LWVHC

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

**RIVERS BREWERY**  
SMALL BATCH CRAFT BEER • RESTAURANT

### Support the LWVHC in style!



Tote bags  
\$15

Bumper stickers  
\$3 each

**LWV** VOTE LIKE YOUR  
RIGHTS DEPEND ON IT

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup>  
OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY  
Democracy: use it or lose it

**LWV** GOOD VIBES.  
INFORMED VOTES.

**LWV** VOTE  
because snarky comments  
on social media don't actually  
change anything

**LWV** I found Bigfoot  
and all he did was ask if my  
voter registration was up to date

## ***Thank You to So Many Wonderful Volunteers!***

Once again wonderful League volunteers came through! I had so many volunteers that a few didn't even need to stay to help. This was another mailing preparation party for the Bear River Election on March 14, 2026. But this time **Brittany Gonzales**, Bear River Executive Secretary, and Bear River Election Committee members Roseann Thomas and Brenda Bowie collated and folded all the documents, and then counted them into bundles of thirty with all the appropriate envelopes and record pages. And **Judi Hedgpeth** proposed a step-by-step process so that we were much more efficient than we had been in October! A big thank you to all of you!

All of this was such a great help that we finished the mailing preparation in less than two hours. Another big thank you to **Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Mona Daly, Willa Mauro, Molly Cate, Judi Hedgpeth, MaryAnn Bansen, Janine Randall, Janet Foos, Peg Gardner, Sharolyn Hutton, and Christina Hutton** for your work and/or your willingness to volunteer. (*Please forgive me if I missed anyone here. I am in Montana without all my notes. Let me know if I missed you and I will thank you in the next VOTER!*) Then **Janet Foos** stayed to help with putting the packets through the postage machine and verifying each one before I took them to the Post Office.

I always appreciate how easy it is to get wonderful volunteers to help with our work for Tribal Elections. Thank you all!

*Byrd Lochtie  
LWVHC Election Service Director*

**Welcome New Member**

**Kurt Coffman**

## *Pictures of League Members at the LWVHC Holiday Party*



Volunteers  
have fun too!



Top to Bottom Left: Becky Simpson and Julie Kelly /Peggy Syvertson and Suzanne McClurkin-Nelson/ Patricia-Anne and George WinterSun /Kurt Coffman, Larry Simpson, and Sam Pennisi

Top to Bottom Middle : Dan and Jessica Schlachter/ Sharon Ferrett and Tess Coffman

Top to Bottom Right: Karen Price and Byrd Lochtie /Kathy Johanson and Janet Foos/Leslie Leach and Anne Hartline/Suzanne McClurkin-Nelson, Corinne Frugoni, and Bonnie Oliver

## ***League of Women Voters Humboldt County 2025-2026 Calendar***

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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>July 2025</b><br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> Board Retreat, 7/26   | <b>January 2026</b><br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> 1/13, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom<br><br><u>Membership Meeting:</u> 1/22, 6:30 pm. Zoom<br>Topic: LWVUS Program Planning   |
| <b>August 2025</b><br><br>No LWVHC meetings this month  | <b>February 2026</b><br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> 2/10, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom<br><br><u>Membership Meeting:</u> 2/19, 6:30 pm, Zoom<br>Topic: Education Position Update   |
| <b>September 2025</b><br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> 9/9, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom<br><br><u>North Country Fair:</u> 9/20 & 9/21, Arcata Plaza<br><br><u>Membership Brunch:</u> 9/27, 10 am-12 pm, Arcata Lutheran Church, 151 E 16th St., Arcata | <b>March 2026</b><br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> 3/10, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom<br><br><u>Sunshine Week:</u> 3/16-3/20<br><br><u>Membership Meeting:</u> 3/26, 6:30 pm, Zoom<br>Topic: Civil Grand Jury System Position Update |
| <b>October 2025</b><br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> 10/14, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom<br><u>Membership Meeting:</u> 10/16, 6:30 pm, Zoom<br>Topic: Fact Checking in the Digital Age  | <b>April 2026</b><br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> 4/14, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom<br><br><u>Membership Meeting:</u> 4/16, 6:30 pm, Zoom<br>Topic: Local Program Planning<br><br><u>SOCL:</u> 4/10                                |
| <b>November 2025</b><br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> 11/11, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom<br><br><b>Note: this is Veteran's Day</b><br><br><u>Membership Meeting:</u> 11/13, 6:30 pm, Zoom<br>Topic: Abolishing the Electoral College                   | <b>May 2026</b><br><br><u>Avenue of the Giants:</u> 5/3<br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> 5/12, 5:30 pm, UCC Church/Zoom  |
| <b>December 2025</b><br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> 12/9, 5-6 pm, <b>Tess Coffman's home</b><br><br><u>Membership Meeting:</u> 12/9, <b>6 pm</b> , Holiday Party,<br>Tess Coffman's home  | <b>June 2026</b><br><br><u>Annual Meeting:</u> 6/2, 6 pm, Location TBA<br><br><u>Board Meeting:</u> 6/9, 5:30 pm, <b>Tess Coffman's home</b>   |

## ***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](http://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](http://www.lwvhc.org)

[leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org](mailto: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<br>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](http://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 13<br>5:30 p.m.                                  | Board Meeting<br>UCC Church/Zoom<br>900 Hodgson Street<br>Eureka, CA<br>In-person<br><br>Zoom<br><a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82436363821?pwd=kAnTSbGXQI88VncVvrFg00TOtRpvv3.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82436363821?<br/>pwd=kAnTSbGXQI88VncVvrFg00TOtRpvv3.1</a> |
| Thursday, January 22<br>6:30 pm.<br>Topic: LWVUS Program Planning | Membership Meeting:<br>Zoom only<br><br>Anytime<br><br>LWVHC Webpage<br>LWVHC Instagram<br>LWVHC X<br>Bluesky<br><a href="https://lwwhc.bsky.social">@lwwhc.bsky.social</a>   |