

President's Message

Dear League Members,

The New Year is here; 2021 has started, and it brings with it the hope for better times for all. The meeting in December was a great time to see our friends (by Zoom) and to hope that we will be meeting in person in the coming year.

Thank you to all who gave to the League so we could make a gift to the Boys and Girls Club. The generosity of our members was inspiring. Please look for the article in this VOTER for details.

The new year provides the opportunity to work on program planning for the state in preparation for the state convention in the spring. Thank you, Judy Bennett for working on the project. There will be a meeting on January 17 to review the proposals. Mark your calendars.

February promises to be an interesting time as we hope for two meetings that month: the first meeting on February 7 will be to look at our position on Hazardous Waste; the second meeting on February 25 will be to look at our position on Public Health.

Look for more information in the coming month as the plans come together.

Wishing all of you a prosperous new year filled with hope.

Deborah Downs
LWVHC President



MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

Program Planning 2021-23 LWVC

“Program” is the word League uses for the issues we choose to study for education and action at local, state, and national levels. Program can include both education and advocacy work. This is from *In League*, our manual of direction. What new members sometimes don’t understand is that any action League takes must be based on a position we have formulated, at some level of the League after study and consensus. Program planning culminates in the delegates’ adoption of a statewide program at the League convention, this year most likely on Zoom.

Program Planning at the state level starts in January. The League is a grass roots organization that sets its agenda through the Program Planning process. As members, this is our chance to have a voice in California’s government. Come and speak your mind.

Members can go online and review the state positions to achieve a better idea of what “Issues for Emphasis” they want LWVC to pursue: <https://lwvc.org/our-work/positions>

Our League goal is to propose up to three “Issues for Emphasis” to the state League that reflect our League’s priorities and may be based on current League work or on new topics you believe the state League should focus on. One or more of the choices could be a new study, an update of an existing LWVC position, or concurrence with an existing or proposed position.

Was there an issue on the ballot that you wished LWVC could have supported so that we should have a new study? This is your opportunity to be heard. Advocacy is a key League activity year-round. LWVC has supported many bills from climate change to voting rights and many have been signed into law. You can be a part of this process.

Join us Sunday, January 17 at 2 p.m. on Zoom. You will get an invitation through your email.

Though this meeting is for League members, we encourage you to invite a friend who might be interested in joining the League, preferably someone younger than you are!

Judy Bennett
LWVC Planning Committee Chair

Another Reason to Attend the January 17 Program Planning Meeting

As Judy says in the above article, the Programming Planning Meeting is the League members’ chance to be heard. I’m repeating that important message because on the next page of the VOTER is a request from LWVC to consider climate change as an issue for emphasis.

Questions should be asked and discussions held so that thoughtful decisions can be made. So mark your calendars: **Sunday, January 17 at 2: p.m. Program Planning 2021-23 LWVC**

Leslie Leach
Natural Resources Director

A Request from LWVC

Climate Change – a LWVC Priority *Program Planning 2021-2023*

Climate change is a global emergency. Heat records are being broken, glaciers are melting, and the seas are rising. We have reached a point where no matter what we do, we cannot avoid a very different climate future. We must act now to prevent truly catastrophic consequences.

Both the LWVC and the LWVUS have declared a climate emergency. **Please continue to include Climate Action as a high priority in this year's Program Planning.**

Why Is Climate Change Such a High League Priority?

Every individual and every group is needed for the climate fight. No one can stand apart. We need all of us – with all our talents – to change our course. **The powerful voice of the League will help spur non-partisan and immediate action.**

The Climate crisis is an issue that is paramount for a large number of citizens, especially young potential voters. It also has a disproportional impact on disenfranchised and underserved communities. This issue can be used as a focal point to encourage these potential voters to participate in the democratic process by showing how their vote translates into positive actions by governmental bodies.

Our sensible, quiet voice of good government can help in dialogues with our elected representatives to craft climate policy and in local communities to engage everyday citizens in climate action.

Legislative Interview

“Every year, the League of Women Voters of California LWVC encourages local League members to interview their state legislators or staff. Legislative interviews are a powerful tool -increasing League visibility, gathering information, and raising awareness among California's state representatives about our interest in policies they are considering.” This statement is from the LWVC Legislative Interview Kit 2020-2021.

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County is planning to participate. Leagues are encouraged to work together for the interview process. We have attempted to reach the other Leagues represented by our legislators, Senator Mike McGuire and Assembly Member Jim Wood. Only the Mendocino County League has responded but we will continue to schedule the interviews. If you are interested in government and would like to participate., please give me a call, Judy Bennett, 443-2855.

Interviews will be conducted on Zoom.

Judy Bennett
LWVC Planning Committee Chair

Water Is Related to Everything...

Water is California. From the Pacific coast to the Sierra snowpack and all the valleys, deserts and estuaries in between, water (or the lack of it) defines the California landscape. Furthermore, who has it – and who doesn't – defines our opportunities. Everything in the California mythos is related to water.



The tectonic forces that cause our earthquakes also create the mountain ranges that squeeze water out of the sky. Off-shore air masses over the Pacific Ocean create mountains in the sky (Pacific High) that modulate our normal annual spring flood and summer drought cycle. Complicating things, although multi-year droughts have always beset California, they are increasingly more common and severe due to climate change.

Water is related to everything -- energy, health, environmental justice, agriculture, recreation, and so much more.

Agriculture has thrived because our predictable annual summer drought allowed farmers to engineer exactly when and how much water to apply to their fields.

The movie and aerospace industries located here for reliably dry weather. Semiconductor factories replaced fruit orchards in Silicon Valley due to the prodigious amounts of water required to produce both crops and semiconductors. For example, it takes [12 liters of water to produce a single California almond](#). It takes over 2,000 gallons of water to fabricate one 30 cm wafer used in making integrated circuits.

Even our famous traffic is made up of the [embedded water fueling our cars](#), both gas and electric. While cars produce the lion's share of our smog, water diversion from some areas, such as the Owens Valley, creates dust that travels long distances and contributes significantly to air pollution.

The California population and economy would not be so large if we had not engineered "[artificial watersheds](#)" that move water from hundreds – sometimes thousands of miles away. Every spring, we move water from the wetter northern part of the state to the drier south. This has upset the delicate ecological balance from the mountains to the sea.

Enlarging our watershed is an insurance program against local drought, but also pits us against a larger group of water users. For instance, Denver and Southern California are both outside of the Colorado River Basin, but rely on inter-basin water transfers from the same headwaters.

These water projects have allowed us to build an agricultural juggernaut that must be watered, even when the rivers and aqueducts run dry. When surface water is not available, we turn to time travel in the form of groundwater. (continued on p.5)

Water Is Related to Everything... continued

At first, it was just a short jaunt of a few months between the spring snowmelt and flood waters that soaked into the ground. As farm acreage grew, farmers (who can afford it) followed the water table every lower by drilling deeper wells until they were pumping up an unsustainable amount of fossilized groundwater, deposited thousands or even hundreds of thousands of years ago.

Wash your hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds, we are admonished. Those are hollow words to the ~1% of Californians whose wells have run dry or to the 2% that don't have access to clean water or the many more who cannot afford to pay their water bills.

Dr. Grace Peng
Chair LWVC Energy Team

Nominating Committee

Last month, I wrote a short article informing the membership that the Nominating Committee members, **Anne Hartline**, **Becky Simpson**, **Maggie Fleming** and **Judith Stoffer** are looking to recruit new board members. We have made many calls and gotten positive responses, and our job is almost completed.

We are striving to increase our board membership to share the burden of the work equitably. Our goal is to bring on members new to the League and have them learn "the League way" of doing things. We also are attempting to recruit younger members from our community who have expressed interest in government and who may be able to teach us new things.

If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the League and ultimately our board, please contact me, Judy Bennett 443-2855. We are using the Nominating Committee as a vehicle for increasing our membership as well as developing a new League board.

Judy Bennett
LWCHC Nominating 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.

The League's Holiday Giving to "Tweens"

Members of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County presented \$800 to the Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods for purchases of holiday gifts for the children who will most likely need them and that are between the ages of 10 and 13.

The \$800 was donated directly from the League's members, and no League funds were used. Traditionally, our League members gathered for our holiday celebration and brought gifts for "tweens," which we delivered to the Boys and Girls Club. Since that wasn't a feasible option this year, League members were asked to send a check so that the staff at the Club could purchase the gifts. The response from League members (\$800!) was heart-warming. What a thoughtful and generous group!

Even more heart-warming was the response of Monica Rose, the Executive Director of the Boy and Girls Club of the Redwoods when she learned of our cash donation. "Would it be all right if we purchased coats, shoes and socks instead of toys?" she asked. Our response, through the lumps in our throats, was, "Oh, certainly, of course!"

What a wonderful opportunity to help the children in our community who most need our support.

THANK YOU to the League members who participated in this gift-giving event.

Nancy Kay
LWVHC Treasurer



Deborah Downs, President League of Women Voters Humboldt County
Monica Rose, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods
Nancy Kay, Treasurer League of Women Voters Humboldt County

Board Briefs

Note: This Board meeting was shorter than normal because it was followed by a Zoom LWWHC holiday party, which was surprisingly fun!

A few key discussions from the meeting: Information/Discussion About Other Upcoming Meetings:

Judy Bennett has agreed to plan the LWVC State Program Planning meeting. The meeting will be held Sunday, January 17 at 2 p.m. via Zoom.

We will have a membership meeting to review our Hazardous Waste position Sunday, February 7 at 2 p.m. via Zoom.

We also have a membership meeting to review our position on Public Health Services Thursday, February 25 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Support for Access Humboldt:

Treasurer Nancy Kay reported that a request has been made to Humboldt Area Foundation to pay \$1000 from our Education Fund to help support the ongoing work of Access Humboldt (voted on at the November Board meeting).

Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

All LWWHC members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Please contact President Deborah Downs to request the Zoom link if you wish to attend.

Anne Hartline
LWWHC Secretary

How to Help the League

We all know that 2020 has been a difficult year, especially for nonprofits that have not been able to hold their usual fundraisers. And you know that the League had to cancel our State of the Community Luncheon — our major fundraiser. Many of you have made donations when sending in your dues and that has helped our budget.

There is another way you can help. If you worked at the polls during the election in November, and you weren't counting on the stipend to help YOUR personal budget, you may choose to follow a League tradition. For years, some poll workers have donated their stipends to the League, adding to our budget for all our voter service in the community.

Not only did you help our community have safe, fair and efficient elections, you can also help the League. Thank you!

Byrd Lochtie
LWWHC Election Service 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.

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

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

Who's Who in Your League Board 2020-2021

- 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

“We must try again to be alive to what the people of our country really long for in our national life: forgiveness and grace, maturity and wisdom.

Our political leaders will know our priorities only if we tell them, again and again, and if those priorities begin to show up in the polls.”

Peggy Noonan, *Patriotic Grace: What It Is and Why We Need It Now*



LWV of HUMBOLDT COUNTY

THE VOTER

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

Tue., Jan. 12 5:30 p.m.	Board Meeting Zoom
Sun. Jan. 17 2:00 p.m.	LWVC Program Planning Meeting Zoom
Sun. Feb. 7 2:00 p.m.	Membership Meeting Hazardous Waste
Thurs. Feb. 25 5:30 p.m.	Membership Meeting Public Health
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
