

President's Message

It's a New Year!

2022 has arrived and your League already has a full calendar. Our board and membership meetings will continue being zoomed with the hope that we might be able to hold hybrid meetings sometime this year. Membership meetings were held on third Thursdays in 2021, and that TOO will continue in the new year. We reviewed our library position in October and began looking at our housing position in November. In January, the land use position will be reviewed, and the housing review will continue in February. The study on Behavioral Health in Humboldt County will continue with the team **Molly Cate** has assembled.

Also in January and/or February, Co-president **Jessica Schlachter** and Government Director **Sharrone Blanck** will join with members from the Leagues of Mendocino, Marin, and Sonoma to interview our state legislators. LWVC has requested that Leagues use the interviews to focus on the following topics:

1. Redistricting Changes in advance of 2031;
2. Climate Change, Water, and Equity;
3. Children and Youth and Mental Health Emergency;
4. Personal priorities of the legislators and our individual Leagues.


As I write this nearing the close of 2021, I am grateful to so many of you who donated to LWVHC, grateful that we have a location for our office supplies and small meetings, and grateful that we have a wonderful and hard-working board. **Carol Masterson**, a long-time member of the board, is taking a break from board duties due to medical reasons. Elsewhere in this VOTER, you can read just how much she is appreciated by all of us with a variety of thoughts on her awesome dedication to the LWVHC and "Making Democracy Work."

Sharolyn Hutton
LWVHC Co-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.



Left to Right: Monica Rose, Director of the Boys and Girls Club receives a check from Co-presidents **Sharolyn Hutton** and **Jessica Schlachter** for \$440.00 from the members of LWVHC. This money is designated for use with "tweens"
Thank you for your generosity, Leaguers. 

Update on the Behavioral Health Services Study

Behavioral Health Study Update

Five members of the LWVHC behavioral health study committee met through Zoom on Saturday, December 18. This meeting began the research phase of the study. Committee members are self-selecting what reports, videos, podcasts, and articles they will absorb and summarize for the full committee. Their summaries are also being compiled in a Google document online.

At the December meeting, we heard reports from four committee members:

Mary Lou Lowry shared her notes from a National Alliance on Mental Illness conference she attended in 2010 where nationally known expert Tony Zipple made the case for evidence-based practices in behavioral health care. Mary Lou's summary has been placed in our "Reports" Google doc.

April Alexander shared her summary of the 2018-2020 St. Joseph Hospital Community Benefits Report. This report determined that mental health and substance abuse together constitute one of the three highest areas of need in the community. The report discusses mental health and substance abuse determinants of health, sources of services for mental health and substance abuse, and local accomplishments in addressing this need. This summary has also been placed in the new "Reports" Google doc.

Debbe Hartridge reported that she is now a member of the Behavioral Health Board (BHB). Referencing an idea from **Hollie Klingel** at our last meeting, Debbe mentioned that the BHB member manual contains several flow charts that may be of use to us, and she has created one that she will send to committee chair Molly. Debbe shared information from a recent BHB meeting: KEET is applying for a grant to finance a local program on suicide, Arcata City Council has committed to increasing the stock of new housing for the unhoused. Lack of housing is a significant factor in the severity and lack of treatment for people suffering with mental illnesses.

Janine Randall will research the lack of treatment options for low-income people with emphasis on solving such problems as not having access to the same provider over time and short-term limits on the number of sessions available.

As for the group's next steps, we agreed to enjoy our holidays! We will reconvene in January.

Molly Cate
LWVHC Program Director



Save the Date

On Thursday, January 20, at 7 p.m., there will be a membership meeting to review the position on Land Use Planning under Natural Resources. This position has not been reviewed since 2012, so please try to attend the meeting. The League needs your input.

You can review the position in the Annual Meeting Kit or you can go online to the LWVHC site: <https://my.lwv.org/california/humboldt-county> On the left side of the page scroll to Actions and Advocacy. Click on it, and when the page opens, where it says "Visit our Positions page...", click on "Positions." Once there, scroll down to Natural Resources.



Deferred and Accelerated Voters Redistricting and the California State Senate

Background

California state Senators are elected every four years. The terms are staggered; those from even-numbered districts elected in one statewide General Election, and those from odd-numbered districts two years later. This creates a problem when district lines are redrawn every ten years. All of the new district lines for the state Assembly and US Congress take effect at the next election – but for the state Senate, the process is staggered, with new district lines taking effect for only half of the districts immediately after redistricting, and the other lines taking effect two years later.

Deferred Voters

In 2022 voters will elect new state senators in even-numbered districts for new four-year terms. State Senators in odd-numbered districts were elected in 2020. Some voters may find themselves moved from an even-numbered district to an odd-numbered one. For these individuals, voting in a state Senate race will be deferred until 2024. The Citizens Redistricting Commission did attempt to create and number districts that cause as few voters as possible to defer voting for another two years.

Accelerated Voters

Accelerated voters are the opposite of deferred voters. These are voters who voted in odd-numbered state Senate districts in 2020, and now, in 2022, are in even-numbered districts. They will vote for state Senator in both 2020 and 2022.

What happens to voters in deferred areas? Who do they contact as “their” state Senator?

In 2013, the state Senate set the following rules:

Due to redistricting, Senate districts have a unique issue that Assembly and Congressional districts do not have. Of the Senate districts established by the Citizens Redistricting Commission in 2011, only the odd-numbered districts went into effect for the 2012 election cycle. The new even-numbered districts will go into effect for the 2014 election cycle, and the even-numbered districts previously established by the 2001 redistricting will continue to exist until 2014. These unique circumstances create some areas of overlap between the old and new districts (“accelerated areas”) and some areas without coverage (“deferred areas”). For the 2013-14 Regular Session of the Legislature, each accelerated area essentially has two Senators representing the area and each deferred area has none. The Senate Committee on Rules will assign a Senator to provide appropriate constituent services to each deferred area. This is a normal consequence of the redistricting process.

Assuming that the Senate applies the same practice in 2023, Senators in even-numbered districts will be elected in 2022, and the Senate Committee on Rules will assign a Senator to each deferred area.

You can find your state representatives at [this website](#).

Honoring Carol Masterson

Carol Masterson has been the face and spirit of "Making Democracy Work" for LWVHC for MANY, MANY years! As a start, Carol served on the LWVHC board as president from 1985-1987. In 1992 she took on the role of Voter Service Director. Though her title changed to Candidate Forum Coordinator in 1997, and later to Fairs and Forums Director, she has continually been a part of the candidate forum process and voter registration/information ever since.



Indeed, during one 5-year period, Carol was personally responsible for 24 live KEET-TV candidate forums and 43 community forums!

In 1998, Carol was one of two recipients, along with Sandra Warshaw, of the LWVHC Civic Contribution Award and was honored at the State of the Community Luncheon, appropriately themed "Making Democracy Work."

Carol's ability to turn a phrase is also legendary. One of my favorite quotes from Carol can be found in the February 2000 *VOTER*, in a Voter Service update article: "And even if you are quarantined with tertiary coreopsis, you can phone in your questions to a candidate forum to let us know you're paying attention. This Is YOUR League. Make your mark on it!"

Carol has always tried to find new and innovative ways to do things and has been a trend setter in LWVHC Voter Service for decades. She worked to bring about radio forums on KIDE FM Hoopa for the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council primary elections, as well as a first-ever KEET-TV forum for Del Norte County. In her subsequent *VOTER* article, she stated that this "made us proud that we could help make democracy work for our League-less neighbors to the north."

Doing things differently was never more important than during the 2020 election. Because of Carol's unending commitment to voters having access to information about candidates, LWVHC undertook Zoom candidate forums, a stretch for all of us but, with Carol's masterful ability to organize and rally the troops, she made it happen.

Carol Masterson's mark on LWVHC is indelible. We will miss her quick wit and sense of fun, always evident when Carol is at a board meeting, but we will always be grateful for the ways she showed us how to get the job done and do it with class.

Thanks! *Anne Hartline*

Here's to you, dear Carol. Your enthusiasm, energy, and devotion to the voters of Humboldt County are truly unmatched. I have always been in awe of the number of clipboards you have passed around, booths you have constructed and taken down, *VOTER* articles you have written, and voters you have registered and educated. You have my deepest love, respect, and admiration. Thank you for your leadership.

Carolyn Otis



The LWVHC Board in 2007

Honoring Carol Masterson



Carol is best remembered for her great work in Voter Service and as a long-term board member. I, however, want to spotlight her many years of help with the Avenue of the Giants Marathon.

My husband was one of several runners who started the Marathon in the 1970's, I believe. I have staffed one of the aid stations ever since. As the Marathon grew to 5,000 runners, it became quite an undertaking, and the organizers provided a stipend to each aid station. We donated ours to the League. Carol brought her huge League banner and her "Carlotta contingent" of volunteers to work the Meyers Flat station year after year!

The banner added a great deal to League public recognition and to the joy of the day. We received many comments from grateful runners such as "Yeah

League," "Love you guys" (we always have had both women and men volunteers), and "Thank you League!" Carol made my job of organizing and staffing much easier, and for that I can now say, Thank You, CAROL!

Kay Escarda

My friend, Carol Masterson, is one of the women who inspired me to be part of this League. Her dedication to having informed voters, knowledge of the election process and the many local candidates, were an inspiration for active civic engagement. Carol made me want to be part of this work, not based on a party or agenda, but on supporting an informed electorate. Carol, with her calm and steady demeanor, has been so much fun to work with. Love and appreciation for Carol and for George for giving so much.

Deborah Downs



Thank you, Carol Masterson

Carol was instrumental in my becoming more active with the League. She recruited me to work with her on candidate forums in 1999, and we haven't looked back since. The board without Carol? Almost unfathomable – she is our grammar-queen, our punctuation maven, and all-around word-smith – not to mention the contributions of her sage comments and insights. So much to appreciate about Carol and her 50+ years of passion for democracy – and her passion for music! Thank you, Carol, for your service to our lucky League.

Nancy Kay

Carol Masterson was my first mentor for LWVHC, and she was an excellent tutor.

Maggie Augustine

Honoring Carol Masterson

Our first summer in Humboldt County was in 2005 and it had been a very gray summer. Finally, there was a gorgeous, sunny day, so my husband Dave and I went to Halverson Park for a boat safety event. While there we spotted a tent with registration forms and slogans about voting and democracy. Because we had just moved here, we knew we needed to register in our new home. It was the registration booth for LWVHC and the woman registering was Carol Masterson. After we were registered, I told her that I had long thought I would join the League when I retired. She explained she was a member of the LWVHC board and immediately took out two membership forms, handed one to me, looked at Dave, and told him the League welcomed men. Both of us joined then and there. As we filled out the forms, we visited. I learned that Carol and I both had roots in the Kansas and Oklahoma area, we both were from musical families, and we were passionate about equal rights for all. It's been 16 years since that day with too many experiences shared with Carol to list, but that day remains in my mind as the day I made my first friend in Humboldt County.

Sharolyn Hutton

Carol Masterson has probably done more to raise awareness of the League of Women Voters in Humboldt County than anyone else. She has been the quiet powerhouse behind the hundreds of candidate and issues forums for many years, both on KEET-TV and in the community. I love to volunteer for a job at a forum because I know everything will be SO well organized. No matter what job I take, I know Carol will have made all the necessary preparations.

One of my biggest pleasures is working with Carol to help high school students or tribal members learn how to conduct their own forums. Again, Carol stays in the background, but ensures that all goes well!

I value our friendship so much. I love visiting her home with its beautiful gardens, and I treasure the hollyhock plant Carol grew just for me. I love attending the Fortuna Concert Series performances. I had not heard about this little-known entertainment gem until Carol introduced me.

I will miss Carol on the League board, but I know she will still volunteer wherever she can!

Byrd Lochtie

It's been my pleasure to work on the LWVHC Board of Directors with Carol. I first got to know her when we both volunteered to help Byrd with a local tribe election. That day, in between helping the voters, we got to know one another better. Carol has worked tirelessly for the League. Her favorite job, as she once put it, was "wrangling candidates," that is, asking candidates running for various elected positions to meet and answer questions from the audience. She wrangled a lot of candidates over the years helping voters to be more informed. Carol has a wonderful sense of humor; on the other hand, she is a very precise speaker, a boon when it comes to being on a board of 12 people or more. I would like to be able to say that Carol and I hung out, but as it is, I'm glad I know her as well as I do. Thank you, Carol for being who you are.

Leslie Leach



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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www.lwvhc.org vote@lwvhc.org
(707) 444-9252

Who's Who in Your 2021-2022 League Board

- Co-Presidents.....Sharolyn Hutton/
Jessica Schlachter
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Anne Hartline
- Treasurer.....Nancy Kay
- Program Director.....Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Directors.....Molly Cate/
Amy Moffat/Sylvia Shaw
- Government Directors.....Sharrone Blanck/
Karen Price
- Fairs Director.....Becky Simpson
- 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 Co-Editors....Dave Rosso/Leslie Leach
- Community Education Directors.....Nancy Kay/
Amy Moffat
- Communications Director.....Deborah Downs
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Director.....Eddie Morgan





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, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity

LWVHC Calendar

Tuesday, January 4	Board Meeting 6 p.m.
Thursday, January 20	Membership Meeting 7 p.m.
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
LWCHC Instagram	Any Time!