

President's Message

Happy Election-filled 2024!

Our final board meeting of the year was held December 12, followed by our Holiday Party. Thanks to the many Leaguers who attended, and a special thanks to **Leslie and Marty Leach** who were our hosts. Seeing so many friends was a lovely way to end our year.

At our board meeting, Government Director **Judy Bennett** shared that her job description states it will be her responsibility to interview our legislators. She will share this task with Co-President **Jessica Schlachter** in the coming year. **Anne Hartline** shared what she has learned about VOTE 411, the replacement for Voters Edge. You will hear more about that soon.

Speaking of the new year, the first board meeting will be on January 2. In the following weeks, **Anne Hartline** and **Julie Kelly** will arrange forums, **Karen Price** will work on community education and all of us will need to be involved.

Our Registrar of Voters, **Juan Pablo Cervantes**, will welcome election workers willing to be trained and work for partial shifts, a change from the past years that required full days for precinct workers.

In addition, our membership meetings will continue to focus on program planning and policy reviews. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 18 at 5:30 on Zoom and promises to be another very interesting review.

Judy and Jessica will be interviewing State Senator Mike McGuire and State Representative Jim Wood with Leaguers from the other counties in our state legislative districts. They will follow that up by reporting their findings in the VOTER.

As you can see, this will be a very busy year for the League, but then they all are. It is especially important that we keep reminding people of our non-partisan position during this hyper-partisan time.

In closing, I wish each of you a new year filled with possibilities!

Sharolyn Hutton
LWVHC Co-President

State of the Community Luncheon



The State of the Community Luncheon Committee, headed by **Maggie Fleming** this year, has set a date, April 19, for the League's annual luncheon to be held at the Adorni, in Eureka. Hope you can all come! This inspiring event is our major fundraiser as well as a time to be updated by community leaders, including the Chair of the Board of Supervisors.

This year, we are honoring the Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation and one of its long time leaders, Jeff Lamoree. Our local zoo is the oldest in California! The Foundation, started in 2004, has supported construction of new animal habitats, ongoing maintenance, exhibit renovations, and improvements to support animals, education, and conservation efforts.

We will also honor Cal Poly Emeritus professor Lori Dengler, internationally known earthquake and tsunami safety educator. She is the author of a delightful illustrated book about a fishing boat that was swept to California from Japan during the 2011 tsunami.

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 19!

Debbe Hartridge
SOCL Committee

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.



RECRUITING LEAGUE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD BEGINNING JULY 2024

League members are passionate about the work we all do. The League's Board of Directors needs you, now more than ever before, to help with our efforts to empower voters, defend democracy, and create a more equitable future for all!

Members with diverse backgrounds, experiences, abilities and perspectives are encouraged to apply. You can apply yourself, or nominate another leader to serve on the LWVHC Board of Directors by emailing Lorey Keele or calling (707) 498-9975 by January 1, 2024.

We encourage you to think about the leadership role you could play in making democracy work as we anticipate how the League will impact our community and our country now and in the the future.

Presidential Primary Election Workers Needed

Humboldt County Office of Elections is onboarding Election Workers for the upcoming Presidential Primary on March 5. Election Staff will no longer be paid via stipend and will instead join our team as hourly employees of Humboldt County. Due to the new designation, we have changed our application process. If you are interested and have received an application, please complete it and return it as soon as you are able. If you have not received an application, please call the Humboldt County Office of Elections. We are absolutely in need of more vote center staff and extra help workers.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Nicole

Nicole Goldbach (She/Her)
Elections Manager
Humboldt County Office of Elections
Office: 707-445-7481
Direct: 707-599-3683



Member Opportunity! Chime in on the LWVUS Program

All members of LWVHC have an opportunity coming up to make our choices and voices heard, as LWVUS gets ready to decide their program for 2024 through 2026. The deadline for us to be included is March 10.

National League is proposing they continue the work they have designated as their trademarked “Campaign for Making Democracy Work.” The components of this campaign are as follows:

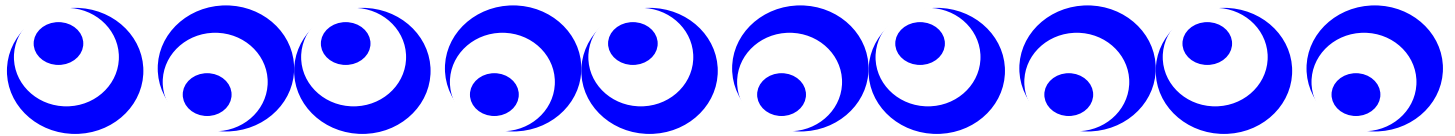
- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Money in Politics
- Redistricting (including gerrymandering)

Access more information about each of these areas on the first page of the LWVUS website (<https://www.lwv.org/>).

Come to a special LWVHC Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 18 starting at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed national program for the next two years and to find consensus on any additional topics we feel it is important to add.

Your voice counts!

Molly Cate
LWVHC Program Director



Thank You, Volunteers

Once again, I want to thank all the dedicated volunteers who signed up to help put together the Bear River Election mailing on December 13. The Bear River Tribal Council made changes to their Election Ordinance, and the First Notice had to be mailed not later than December 29! Yes, the timing was not ideal, but **Janine Randall, Kay Escarda, Helen Andrews, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Pat Britton, and Peggy Syvertson** all came through for me! **Crystal Bowman, Cassie Curr, and Valerie Robinson** of the Bear River Election Committee (and also League members), were also there to help. **Leslie Leach, Karen Price, Joan Williams, and Peg Gardner** were all willing to help if I needed them. Thank you all. It is such a pleasure to have enthusiastic volunteers, especially when they say they enjoyed working and will do it again! I'll be looking for volunteers in February 2024 for the Second Notice mailing and again on March 30, 2024, for the actual election.

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director

It's Forum Season Again!

Hello! Believe it or not, the California March Primary election is just around the corner. Your LWVHC Voter Service Co-Chairs, **Julie Kelly** and **Anne Hartline**, are currently in the planning stages with KEET-TV for at least three candidate forums in February. We have scheduled three tentative dates so far:

Monday, February 5, Board Supervisor District 1
Wednesday, February 7, Board Supervisor District 2
Monday, February 12, Board Supervisor District 3

All forums will air from 7-8 p.m. on KEET-TV.

We are currently in the process of contacting the candidates and confirming their participation. In the meantime, we need to start recruiting LWVHC members to staff the forums. For each forum, we're looking for Leaguers to fill the following positions:

1 Moderator
2 Question Sorters
3 Phone Answerers
1 Timer

If you are interested in working at one of the forums, please contact Anne Hartline at annehartline10@gmail.com and let me know the dates/jobs that most interest you. Since we know that there may be Leaguers out there who have not been part of our forum staff in the past, we will be offering a training for all forum jobs on Monday, January 15 from 5-6 p.m. on Zoom. If you have not worked at a forum before or if you'd like to try a different job, please plan to attend the training. Contact Anne at annehartline10@gmail.com if you have questions or concerns, and to obtain the Zoom link.

Also, we would like to encourage LWVHC members to submit potential questions for the candidates. Send questions to Julie at lwwhc.jlk@gmail.com before February 1.

Sincerely,

Julie Kelly and **Anne Hartline**
LWVHC Voter Service Co-Chairs



Looking Forward to 2024

As I write this, we are coming to the close of 2023 and thinking about what is going to happen in 2024.

We know that it will be a busy year for the League. All our supervisors who are up for reelection will face opponents in the primary. And the primary will be in March. We have two candidates for judge, one incumbent and a challenger.

There should be many interesting events happening in our community and local government. The Coastal Commission has dismissed three opposition measures for the on-land fish cultivation project. So, that will continue. Getting approval from the Coastal Commission is a big hurdle for any endeavor. The off-shore wind farm continues. Legislators are paving the way for that to happen in our Humboldt waters. There will be some changes in our lives just from these two large new businesses.

The selling of the Jacobs Junior High School property took many by surprise including the California Highway Patrol, who thought it was buying the property for a new headquarters. Out of nowhere, a different buyer appeared and behind mostly closed doors the Eureka City School Board of Education traded the property for a house and \$5.4 million in cash. All we know is that AMG Communities Jacobs, LLC. will be the new owner. Some online investigating found that AMG Communities is headed by Thomas M. Swett of the law firm Burton and Swett of Amador County. What happens now remains to be seen. Once sold, the city of Eureka can change the zoning. Let us hope we get some affordable housing.

After January 1, we will see changes throughout the state. California's minimum wage will increase to \$16 an hour. In April, minimum wage for fast food workers will be raised to \$20 an hour. Landlords will not be permitted to collect a security deposit greater than one month's rent. Paid sick leave for workers will increase from three days to five days a year. Under SB-43, involuntary mental health holds have expanded to help those who cannot maintain their own safety and those with drug and alcohol addictions. In conclusion, the CSU system must now produce an annual report explaining how it managed sexual harassment allegations.

League will be having Legislative Interviews in January and February. Our League will be working with the Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County Leagues to interview Assemblymember Jim Wood and Senator Mike McGuire.

Have a great 2024.

Judy Bennett
LWVHC Government Director



Thank You, Volunteers

Once again, a big thank you to League volunteers who are always willing to help when we are conducting an election for the Wiyot Tribe. On October 7th **Dottie Riffenburg, Mary Ann Bansen, Helen Andrews, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Debbie Hartman and Janine Randall** each took a two-hour shift for the election. Janine also checked the P. O. Box before she came out to Table Bluff to get the very last mail-in ballots. We actually had a record number of mail-in ballots (51) for an election with no candidates for office but three propositions that were obviously controversial.

Thank you, League members for filling the time slots so I didn't have to ask any board members to help me! I figure Board Members are doing plenty of work anyway, and I like to involve our other members. And everyone who helps with an election always says how much they enjoy the work.

I also had good news from the Election Office, where we always have been able to request the loan of voting booths for those who vote in person. We now have the booths designated for our use and I just have to call and tell them what date I will need them. No more formal letters of request! Thank you to Juan Pablo Cervantes and the Election Office.

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director

Brief Items about Government on the Local, State, and National Level

Time is moving too fast for me. I cannot believe it is December. I hope you had a happy holiday despite all the chaos in our world.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to mention things that are happening in our governments. By now, you all know we have a new Senator, Laphonza Butler who was appointed by the Governor to fill Senator Feinstein's seat. What you may not know is that she has declared that she will not be running for election. So, we should see vigorous campaigning in the future.

Interesting to me, is who spends money on lobbying in our state. Chevron Corp. (\$10 million) and Western States Petroleum Assn. (\$5.3 million) were the biggest spenders. Makes you think about alternate energy sources. The energy companies were followed by Hawaiian Gardens Casino in LA (\$5.1million), bills regulating card rooms was their interest, and McDonald's (\$5million) who fought the \$20 an hour minimum wage for food service workers.

Fish farms and wind farms continue to make headlines locally. The California Coastal Commission has unanimously approved a coastal development permit for Nordic Aquafarms for the wastewater discharge from the proposed project. Congressman Jared Huffman announced that over \$8 million dollars was granted to Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District for the development of an offshore wind terminal. So, fish farming and wind energy are going to happen in Humboldt.

Our Board of Supervisors continues to deal with legal cannabis cultivation in the forms of Measure S, the tax on cannabis cultivation and Measure A, a cannabis cultivation initiative.

A few bits of information about the Inflation Reduction Act: It includes the building of safer sidewalks and bike lanes, expanding access to high-speed internet, and upgrading wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. In addition, seniors enrolled in a Part D drug plan will find that all vaccines recommended by the federal government are free.

Have a great holiday season and see you in the New Year.

Judy Bennett
LWVHC Government Director

League of Women Voters of Humboldt County 2023-2024 Calendar

2024

JANUARY

Tuesday, 1/2 5:30 Board meeting

Thursday, 1/18 6:30 Program (State) meeting

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, 2/6 5:30 Board meeting

Thursday, 2/15 6:30 Program meeting

MARCH

Tuesday, 3/5 5:30 Board meeting

Thursday, 3/21 6:30 Program (Local) meeting

APRIL

Tuesday, 4/2 5:30 Board meeting

Friday, 4/19 11:30 SOCL

MAY

Tuesday, 5/7 5:30 Board meeting

Thursday, 5/30 5:30 Annual Meeting

JUNE

Tuesday, 6/4 5:30 Board meeting

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 2023-2024 League Board

- Co-Presidents.....Sharolyn Hutton,
.....Jessica Schlachter
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Maggie Fleming
- Treasurer.....Michelle Vassel
- Program Director.....Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Director.....Sylvia Shaw
- Government Director.....Judy Bennett
- Fairs Director.....Becky Simpson
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Director.....Anne Hartline
- Voter Service Co-Directors.....Anne Hartline
.....and Julie Kelly
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Editor.....Leslie Leach
- Community Education Director.....Karen Price
- Communications Director.....Vacant
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Director.....Cindy Humphry
- Director.....Bonnie Oliver
- Director.....Peggy Syvertson





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, February 6
5:30 p.m. Board Meeting
2932 K Street, Eureka
or on Zoom

Thursday, February 15
6:30 p.m. Membership Meeting
Zoom

LWVHC Webpage Any Time!

LWVHC X Any Time!

LWVHC Instagram Any Time!