

## Welcome New Board Members

This year, four new LWVHC members were elected to the board at the Annual Meeting. Now it's time for you to be introduced to them. I'm friends with one of them already. Therefore, the new board member statements are placed in alphabetical order by last name to prevent any appearance of favoritism.

**Leslie Leach**  
**VOTER Editor**



**Claire Eyton**

I recently retired from a forty-year career as a physical therapist and joining the League was one of the first things I did. I have always been interested in politics and remember watching the party conventions gavel-to-gavel in 1964! I enjoy reading and journaling, taking walks with my husband, music and theatre, watching tennis on TV, gardening, bird watching, Crabs baseball, doing volunteer work for Al-Anon, tai chi, and dining out with family and friends. I look forward to supporting the League's important work.



**Janet Foos**

I grew up in Connecticut and came to California to complete my registered dietitian degree and get a Master's Degree in public health at UC Berkeley. My husband and I moved to Humboldt so he could attend HSU. We loved the area so much, we stayed and raised our family.

For most of my very fulfilling career, I worked at Redwood Coast Regional Center helping individuals with developmental disabilities and those who support them. I have become very aware of many of the problems experienced by people with disabilities. My personal experience includes seniors with disabilities because my husband spent his last years using a wheelchair.

Since his death, I have been able to get more involved in volunteer activities such as the LWV, my local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), helping at NCRT and the Clarke Museum, etc. I have always enjoyed crafting (especially making soaps and other natural products), am very active in my church, love to spend time outdoors, and love to visit with my children and grandchildren.

I look forward to serving on the board of the LWV.

**Corinne Frugoni**



I am a family physician living in Humboldt County. I had the privilege of working at United Indian Health Services, at Cal Poly-Humboldt Student Health Clinic, and most recently, I am working part-time with Hospice of Humboldt.

I joined Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) in 1989 and have been working on Single Payer as the only viable solution to today's horribly complex and lethal health care non-system that we are currently operating under.

Currently, I am co-chair of our local Humboldt Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program/Health Care for All (PNHP/HCA).

I enjoy sculling, reading, and hiking, and I am so grateful that I live in such a beautiful part of the country.

I am honored to serve on the Humboldt LWV Board of Directors.



**Anne Wasson**

I moved to Eureka from Little Rock, Arkansas, about five years ago to be closer to family after my husband died. I continued to work remotely for a health-improvement foundation in Arkansas as an editor, writer, and public health blogger. Previously I edited and published a weekly magazine for active senior Arkansans that focused on health, politics, and lifestyle. Prior to that publication, I edited a statewide monthly newspaper for senior citizens that focused on health improvement and senior advocacy. I continue to write and edit in a freelance capacity.

I earned a bachelor's degree in political sci-

## 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.

## ***Welcome New Board Members (continued)***

public administration. I worked for an Area Agency on Aging after graduation, transitioning to executive director of a statewide advocacy organization for older Arkansans.

My two children, Sarah and John Wasson, both live and work in Humboldt County. On weekends, I enjoy gardening at my home in Cutten and exploring the north coast's beaches and forest hikes with my children. I have recently joined a bell choir at my church and started substitute teaching at the Peninsula Union school in Samoa.

My advocacy for special causes and enjoyment of politics has provided the opportunity to serve as a board member and officer for several organizations in Arkansas, including the League of Women Voters of Craighead County, the Arkansas Gerontological Society, Craighead County Quorum Court, Nonprofit Resources, and Broadmoor Property Owners Association.

## ***SOCL Requires Concerted Effort by Members***

Have you ever wondered what it takes to host the League's (LWVHC) annual State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL), the League's primary fundraiser? Volunteer committee members have always made it look easy. However, like swans gliding serenely across the water, SOCL Committee members did a lot of difficult paddling out of sight. Here's what it takes to host this premier community event.

The SOCL Committee relied on its long-time members to provide the encyclopedic knowledge of the Humboldt community that's essential in selecting steering committee members and recipients of the community awards. Many months of planning meetings required extensive minutes to track the numerous details. No item escaped scrutiny, down to the last comma in the program. **Kay Escarda** dubbed the group "the comma queens" after a long proofreading session where punctuation was cheerfully debated.

The 2025 SOCL Planning Committee was again most ably led by Chairperson **Maggie Fleming**. She ensured committee members had specific responsibilities and tracked their progress toward the big event. Additionally, she helped identify Steering Committee members, served as luncheon MC, and recorded a radio spot to help publicize it.

A key feature of the SOCL was the presentation of the Civic Community Awards. **Byrd Lochtie** has managed this popular part of the program for many years. She received nomination forms from LWVHC and community members, interviewed the winners, and introduced and presented the awards at the luncheon.

**Judy Bennett** kept track of the money, the committee's budget, supplies, and seating assignments. That last task required tracking an extensive spreadsheet of tables and attendees. Judy also co-chaired the Steering Committee with **Judith Stoffer**. A key organizer of the original SOCL over 30 years ago and a dedicated committee member for many years, Judy will be retiring from the committee, but not from the League. She has identified a "replacement" member, whom she will train to take over for the 2026 SOCL.

**Judith Stoffer** used her considerable community knowledge to co-chair the Steering Committee, which was key to the event's financial success. Steering Committee members agreed to sponsor (or find a paying sponsor for) at least one table. Judy excelled at the persistence and diplomacy required to remind table sponsors of their commitment to filling the tables. Committee members who also served on the Steering Committee were **Judy Bennett, Kay Escarda, Lorey Keele, and Byrd Lochtie**.

**Carolyn Prescott** worked on the numerous arrangements required for an event of this size and complexity. She handled the arrangements at the Adorni Center, arranged for a platform stage through the Party Place and a sound system. **Carolyn** worked with the caterer on the committee-approved menu and managed the table linens, the table placement to maximize space for the large crowd, and kept the buffet lines moving.

**Kay Escarda** was a most gracious host, providing her home for the numerous committee meetings. A long-

## ***SOCL Requires Concerted Effort by Members (continued)***

time SOCL Committee member, Kay also contacted and worked with the keynote speaker as well as the Board representative who delivered the State of the County Address.

**Connie Smith** served as recording secretary for the committee and provided detailed minutes. She designed and executed this year's table centerpieces, with assistance from Debbie Hartman. Centerpiece design was challenging in the effort to honor both award recipient organizations. Debbie and Connie also arranged for the stage drapery set-up. Debbie was responsible for the larger floral arrangements.

**Lorey Keele** lent her expertise to develop the program, worked with the printer, and took care of other printing needs. She was especially patient and smiled through the comma queens' proofreading assistance.

**Debbe Hartridge** handled publicity for the SOCL, assisted by **Anne Wasson**. Debbe has been responsible for both pre- and post-publicity for the SOCL for many years. She's an expert on the county's media outlets and knew the best way to reach each one. Debbe will be retiring from the committee and is leaving the SOCL's pre- and post-publicity to Anne next year.

In its de-briefing meeting after the SOCL, committee members stressed the importance of getting new LWVHC members to step up to the 2026 SOCL Planning Committee. Because several members are retiring from the committee this year, an informal rule was established that retirees must find a replacement before they can leave.

Watch the VOTER for planning updates and how you can help with the 2026 SOCL, planned for April 10, 2026.

**Anne Wasson**  
**LWVHC Board Director**



The 2025 SOCL planning committee members include (back row, left to right) **Connie Smith, Byrd Lochtie, Maggie Fleming, Judy Bennett, Lorey Keele, Judith Stoffer, Carolyn Prescott, Anne Wasson, and Debbie Hartman;** (front row) **Donna Clark, Kay Escarda, and Debbe Hartridge.**

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## *And a Good Time Was Had by All*

On June 5, 2025, LWVHC held our Annual Meeting, quite possibly our most important business/membership meeting of the year. This year's event took place at the Humboldt County Office of Education's Sequoia Conference Room. It was a hybrid meeting with 37 Leaguers attending in-person and 5 Leaguers attending on Zoom. To begin with, special thanks to **Julie Kelly** for running the meeting, **Jessica Schlachter** for overseeing the Zoom, and Jorden Brummell from the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) for his expert technical support! (Full disclosure--Jordan was my student at McKinleyville Middle School, and I am seriously biased, but everyone agreed that he was awesome!) The caterer for the delicious dinner was Dorris and Daughter Catering, and the entire event was coordinated by Board member **Becky Simpson**. Awesome job, Becky, down to beautiful potted flower centerpieces that we got to take home! Very classy!

At this important yearly event, we celebrate LWVHC successes and accomplishments for the year, and we conduct a great deal of important business. At the point of this writing, the members of the Minutes Review Committee, who were approved at the Annual Meeting, are still reviewing the draft minutes expertly taken by Secretary **Bonnie Oliver**. However, I think I can safely recount the major decisions that took place at the meeting. Note: I urge all Leaguers to refer to the Annual Meeting Kit that they received via email prior to the meeting for details about these decisions.

At the Annual Meeting, as a group we approved:

- The recommended Bylaws changes;

- The 2025/26 Budget;

- The revised "Resources and Development of Humboldt Bay" position;

- The revised "Civic Engagement" position with wording changes made as a result of whole-group discussion;

- The recommended Program Topics for 2025/26

We also elected the Board Slate for 2025/26 Note: there were no additions or changes from the floor, except **Julie Kelly** did announce that **Karen Price** was appointed for a one-year Board position.

At this point, **Kay Escarda** took the mic and announced a \$5000 donation to LWVHC from the estate of **Dan Taranto**, past LWVHC Board member and longtime LWVHC member and advocate, and she read Dan's obituary to the group so that all attendees could better understand his life passions and work in our community. Thank you, Dan!

Next, President **Julie Kelly** awarded both **Kay Escarda** and **Mary Lou Lowry** with LWVHC Member of the Year Awards for all their ongoing efforts on behalf of LWVHC. **President Kelly** also honored **Sylvia Shaw** and **Molly Cate**, outgoing Board members, for their outstanding efforts as LWVHC Board members.

Finally, **President Julie Kelly** presented **Judy Bennett** with a special award honoring her retirement from the LWVHC State of the Community Luncheon Committee and her amazing dedication to that critical endeavor for 30+ years. We all agreed: Thank you so very much, Judy!

As the meeting closed, we entertained directions to the Board that will be discussed and reviewed by the 2025/26 LWVHC Board at our retreat in late July.

Thank you all for attending this very important LWVHC meeting!

And now, please go have a great summer! See you in the Fall!

*Anne Hartline*  
*LWVHC Director*



## *Pictures from the Annual Meeting*



**Judy Bennet** receives her special award.



LWVHC President **Julie Kelly** at the podium with **Byrd Lochtie**



**Julie Kelly** presents **Molly Cate** with an award.



**Julie Kelly** presents **Sylvia Shaw** with an award.



**Julie Kelly** presents **Mary Lou Lowry** with an award.

## ***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.....	Vacant
Secretary.....	Bonnie Oliver
Treasurer.....	Tess Coffman
Program Director.....	Vacant
Natural Resources Director.....	Vacant
Social Policy Director.....	Vacant
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.....	Claire Eyton
Director.....	Janet Foos
Director.....	Corinne Frugoni
Director.....	Kathy Johanson
Director.....	Anne Wasson





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***

July 26  
9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Board Retreat

Anytime

LWVHC Webpage  
LWVHC Instagram  
LWVHC X  
Bluesky  
[@lwvhc.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@lwvhc.bsky.social)