

President's Message

Hello All!

I'll start this co-president's message by announcing that this will be my last one - **Sharolyn Hutton** and I are stepping down and handing the presidency over to **Julie Kelly**. It's been an honor to serve as co-president of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County for the past three years. I've had incredible board members and a supportive membership that has allowed me to learn, grow, and lead during my time.

I'm writing this before the annual meeting, and I'm excited to see many of you there! The board has done some great things in the past year, and I hope we have a good turnout at the meeting so that you can hear all about it.

Back in February, **Byrd Lochtie** and I were interviewed by Cal Poly Humboldt President, Dr. Tom Jackson and College of the Redwoods President, **Dr. Keith Flamer** for their radio show on KHSU *Talk Humboldt*. We spoke about what the LWVHC does and why organizations like it are so important in today's society, and I was so excited to hear it finally air last week! I'll make sure that the link gets sent out as soon as it's available online for those who aren't able to catch it live.

To wrap up this message, I want to encourage everyone to stay as involved as they can. The months leading up to November's presidential election will no doubt be hyperpartisan and contentious. I hope you will be able to take time to advocate for the great work the League does and let people know how the organization can be of service to the community. With that in mind, please also take care of yourself.

Signing off with love and respect,

Jessica Schlachter
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.

Congratulations, Aileen Meyer

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County is very pleased to congratulate Aileen Meyer of the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria on her selection to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Cal Poly Humboldt, an honor reserved for a select few whose contributions transcend the ordinary.

From her initial work securing recognition of the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, to her work in crafting the original Constitution, to the many terms she has served on her Tribal Council, Aileen has shown diligence, determination and unwavering dedication to her community.

As current Vice Chair of the Bear River Tribal Council, and as a Board member for United Indian Health Services, Aileen continues to provide leadership for her Tribe. She has also promoted cultural awareness and understanding through initiatives of preservation and education. She has enriched the lives of her fellow Tribal members, but she also has helped everyone in Humboldt County to achieve greater inclusivity and mutual respect.

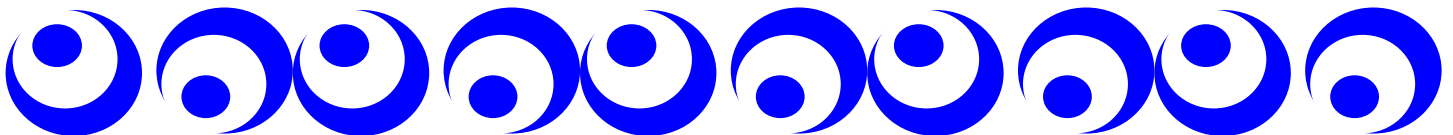
This significant honor from Cal Poly Humboldt recognizes Aileen’s many years of service to her Tribe and to Humboldt County and is richly deserved. As SuWorhrom David Baldy said in his article about Aileen in the UIHS newsletter, “Meyer’s tireless advocacy efforts have helped to break down barriers and create a more just and equitable society for all.”



The League thanks Aileen Meyer for her many years of service, and congratulates her again on this well-deserved honor.

Thanks to SuWorhrom David Baldy for his article in the UIHS newsletter, which provided much of the information for this VOTER article.

Byrd Lochtie



“Our nation is asking to hear your voice because November is coming and so is your choice. Do not throw away your shot.”

— Lin-Manuel Miranda, composer, actor, singer, playwright, and creator of *Hamilton*

Thank You!

A big thank you to all Leaguers who volunteered to help with the Bear River and Wiyot Tribal elections in March and April. Because of the new timeline for the Bear River election on March 30, 2024, the work party to prepare the second mailing for that election fell on Valentine's Day. I know people had many other plans for that day, but so many people came through for us that we finished the mailing in less time than I had anticipated. And then the actual election fell on the Saturday before Easter, another day full of family plans!

Here are all the wonderful volunteers who were on hand those two days or waiting to be called if I needed them. League volunteers make my job so much easier! Thank you to **Brittany Gonzales**, Bear River Administrative Assistant; **Cassie Curr**, **Valerie Robinson**, Hunter Sand and Steve Martinez, Bear River Election Committee members; and League members **Janet Foos**, **Pat Bitton**, **Judy Hedgpeth**, **Elaine Weinreb**, **Beth Powell**, **Janine Randall**, **Peg Gardner**, **Joan Williams**, **Willa Mauro**, **Molly Cate**, **Peggy Severtson**, **Patricia-Anne WinterSun**, **Kathy Sattler**, **Kay Escarda**, and **Helen Andrews**. And **Patricia-Anne WinterSun** even showed up for the Candidate Forum conducted by the Bear River Election Committee members, because the committee members had never been question sorters before and felt they needed a bit of mentoring. If I have left anyone out, PLEASE let me know immediately so I can thank you properly next month. Thank you, all you wonderful volunteers!

There were no challenges to the Bear River Election so we certified the election in a timely manner. Unfortunately, the participation in the election was 43%, just under the 45% needed per the Constitution to pass or defeat any proposed Constitutional Amendments. The Bear River Tribal Council and the Bear River Election Committee were concerned about the low turnout and are now working on ways to increase the voter turnout. The League has an MOU with Bear River to have a consultant work with the Committee on this issue. We look forward to seeing their voter turnout increase.

More League volunteers agreed to help conduct the Wiyot Election and then count the votes. Their election occurs during their Annual Meeting in April, where they need a quorum to open the meeting and the election. Unfortunately, they did not reach a quorum, so the meeting and the election did not happen. My volunteers went home early or didn't even need to show up for the second shift, but it was disappointing for the Wiyot Tribe. Thank you to **Judy Hedgpeth**, **Dottie Riffenburg**, **Patricia-Anne WinterSun**, **Donna Clark**, **Elaine Weinreb**, and **Molly Cate**, all of whom were willing to help even though we didn't need everyone after all.



One very positive thing did happen at both elections—the three regular voting booths and the ADA voting booth that we usually borrow from the county Elections Office now belong to the respective tribes! The booths were excess county equipment and have been given to the tribes. That makes my job easier because I do not need to request, pick-up, and return the booths, and the tribes now own and store their own booths. Check out the background of the photo where you can see voters at Bear River using the booths to vote, while **Willa Mauro**, **Valerie Robinson**, and **Molly Cate**, (pictured) prepare to welcome and check in voters. Thank you, **Juan Pablo Cervantes**, Registrar of Voters, for making the booths available to the tribes!

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director

The 52nd Avenue of the Giants Marathon

Thanks to a great crew we pulled off another successful aid station this year. We again supported the runners and raised funds for our League! My personal thanks go to **Rudy Ramp**, Vicky Turner, Jim Haggerty, **Leslie Leach**, Darleene Sampson, and **Terry Escarda** - along with an apology for getting the crew there earlier than necessary! The times were different last year because of a road closure, and I went by the wrong schedule. Therefore, an extra thank you is due.

A Little History on the Avenue of the Giants Marathon:

Lenny Escarda and a small group of dedicated guys started the first marathon on the Avenue, I think in the late '60's. Later, several guys went to the Garberville Chamber of Commerce to see if they would sponsor an official marathon. They declined because they didn't think enough people would participate to justify the business. The first sanctioned Avenue of the Giants Marathon occurred in 1972, sponsored by the recently formed Six Rivers Running Club. Within a few years, the signups exploded, and registration was limited to 5,000 runners. We had runners coming from many states and several foreign countries. The redwoods, the cool weather, and the flat course made for good qualifying times for the Boston Marathon. When the running club began paying organizations to staff the aid stations, I tapped the League membership to help support the League. Our loyal League member, Carol Masterson, brought family and friends and the League banner for years. Runners would yell, "Thank you League," "Love the League," and various other compliments. We sure miss Carol's presence! It's been a fun activity for League members and has bolstered the League budget. In fact, the League just received a check for \$500 for our busy but fun time at the Marathon.

Thinking about the Future Now:

I am looking for a League member to be my assistant for the next Avenue of the Giants Marathon on May 4, 2025. It's always run on the first Sunday in May. I want to train someone to take over the station for 2026. The runner's club provides all of the supplies, and we provide the volunteer staff. I will have chaired the aid station some 60+ times by then. I will be glad to help, but I will be 89 next year and 90 (fingers crossed) by 2026, so it's time to pass the baton! So, who will step up? Call me and let's talk.
797-442-7495.

Kay Escarda

LWVHC Avenue of the Giants Marathon Chair



L-R Jim, Kay, Vickie, Terry, Darlene, and Rudy getting ready for the runners. Not shown Leslie Leach



The runners kept the volunteers busy, but we had a great time!

Job Opportunity with Access Humboldt

Sean McLaughlin plans to step back before stepping down, led by the board of directors' preferences, and remaining available to help with the transition.

March 13: board authorized hiring The Buske Group of Sacramento to manage the ED search process. Sue Buske goes way back with AH, was instrumental in enticing Sean to move from Hawaii to become the first ED.

Friday, April 12: special 3-hour conference of the AH board with Sue and Randy of The Buske Group. ED Search Committee formed.

Search Committee members are:

Keith Flamer, Aaron Donaldson, Brenda Perez, Jay Tilghman, and dear friend of both LWVHC and AH, Juan Pablo Cervantes.

The search was launched on May 1. The job announcement and application instructions are on pages 5-8.

Access Humboldt is Looking for a New Executive Director!

Overview

Access Humboldt seeks a dynamic, inspirational, and visionary leader as its next Executive Director. Access Humboldt is a nonprofit community media organization serving Humboldt County and the Cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, and Rio Dell, California since 2006.

Access Humboldt manages five cable TV channels and a low-power FM radio station that provide Public, Educational, and Government programming, free airtime, and access to media resources. Diverse community members utilize Access Humboldt's resources to engage in meaningful conversations that increase participation in civic life. Local governments, educational institutions, and community-based organizations find Access Humboldt's services to be indispensable.

Access Humboldt is also contracted by the County and Cities to ensure that the cable companies comply with the terms of agreements with the County and Cities on an ongoing basis.

The Access Humboldt production facilities and administration offices are located on the campus of the College of the Redwoods in Eureka.

The [Community Media Archive](#) started as a partnership between The Internet Archive and Access Humboldt in 2008. It now archives videos by over 2,100 community media centers and producers from around the U.S.

For more information about Access Humboldt: <https://www.accesshumboldt.net>

Living in Humboldt County

Humboldt County is located on the northern coast of California, with a population of about 135,000 people. The region's climate is characterized by mild, wet winters and cool, dry summers, creating an environment where lush vegetation thrives year-round. The cost of living in Humboldt County is significantly lower than in other areas of California. Housing is relatively affordable, with many options for renting or buying homes.

The primary population centers in Humboldt County are Eureka and Arcata. Founded during the gold rush, Eureka is now a state historic landmark and national treasure, with hundreds of significant Victorian homes. It is a culture-rich, art-centric city boasting murals, live theater, and symphony music framed in stunning, unique architecture. Surrounding Eureka are ocean beaches, beautiful rivers, and awesome redwood forests.

Arcata is the home of California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt (aka Cal Poly Humboldt). Arcata is a community where environmentalism and social activism are broadly embraced, and was the first U.S. city to have a Green Party majority in its city council.

Learn more about Humboldt County at:

<https://visithumboldt.com>

<https://visiteureka.com/>

<https://humboldtcsd.org/area-description>

<https://www.eurekaca.gov/>

<https://www.cityofarcata.org> <https://eurekaisready.com> Towns of Humboldt County

Job Description

Summary: The Executive Director is the chief executive officer and principal spokesperson for Access Humboldt. Key responsibilities include a variety of community media activities; supervision of such areas as outreach, training, production, programming, and promotion; developing and maintaining an earned income strategy; and identifying and pursuing opportunities to broaden Access Humboldt's base of financial support. In addition, the Executive Director oversees procedures needed to evaluate the cable companies to ensure that they comply with their agreements with the County and Cities.

The Executive Director leads and inspires others, ensures the fair and equitable delivery of services, encourages the growth of diverse and quality community programming, invigorates civic engagement, and enables Access Humboldt to realize its mission. The Executive Director formulates and implements policies, programs, and objectives for Access Humboldt's channels, resources, and services that are appropriate to meet community needs in an evolving telecommunications landscape. The Executive Director reports to a Board of Directors and must work effectively in a team environment.

Primary Job Duties and Responsibilities:

Give direction and leadership to the formulation and achievement of Access Humboldt's philosophy, mission, annual goals, and objectives.

Be an articulate, engaged, empathetic, and supportive leader to the Access Humboldt staff and an excellent communicator who understands their needs, capabilities, and limitations.

Work with the Board of Directors and staff to develop and implement all policies, procedures, and strategic plans, and prepare periodic reports regarding progress toward and barriers to achieving such policies and plans.

Ensure that procedures are in place to verify that the cable companies comply with the terms of their agreements with the County and Cities.

Oversee administrative, financial, and program operations, and all personnel matters.

Prepare and, following Board approval, administer Access Humboldt's annual budget.

Negotiate and ensure compliance with Access Humboldt's contracts with the County and Cities, the College of the Redwoods, equipment vendors, funding sources, etc.

Manage the overall operation of Access Humboldt's production facilities and services, equipment, and media services, and update as needed on an ongoing basis (including the community media production facilities installed in the County and City buildings).

Oversee the media education and training programs provided by Access Humboldt.

Develop and pursue additional revenue sources through a variety of fundraising mechanisms, consistent with the mission statement of the organization.

Develop and oversee outreach, branding, and public relations activities.

Maintain a close working relationship with representatives of Humboldt County and the Cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, and Rio Dell, including ongoing communications with them to ensure the reliability and technical quality of the government programming.

Network with vital community organizations -- including business, governmental, nonprofits, and local public and private educational institutions -- to gain input and collaboration on projects and productions.

Refine all aspects of communications -- from web presence to external relations -- to build a stronger brand.

Keep informed of trends, issues, events, and developments in the community media field through professional peer contacts, conference attendance, etc.

Develop and oversee an active volunteer program.

Desired Experience, Skills, and Abilities:

Strong development and fundraising skills, with a solid track record of successful grant writing.

A commitment to and a passion for community media.

Proven record of success as a nonprofit Executive Director or similar role.

Passionate about working in an organization that values and promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Knowledge of federal, state, and local cable TV regulations; media production techniques; operating rules; training programs; and related matters.

Demonstrated experience in fiscal administration, planning, nonprofit organization management, marketing/public relations, and human resource development.

Advocacy experience.

Ability to develop and execute strategic plans that align with Access Humboldt's mission.

Ability to outreach to and work with diverse groups, individuals, ideas, and opinions.

Personnel management experience, including responsibility for hiring and termination.

Technology and media literacy.

Experience in working with youth, and understanding of the importance of youth engagement.

Excellent public speaking and written communication skills, including the ability to initiate, develop, and maintain good relationships with a broad range of people.

Education and Experience:

BA or BS degree from an accredited college or university, or equivalent experience.

A minimum of five (5) years of management and supervisory experience in the community media field, or a related non-profit organization(s).

Compensation and Benefits:

Annual salary range is \$85,000 - \$95,000 (negotiable, commensurate with the selected applicant's education and experience, within the framework of Access Humboldt's annual operating budget).

Current benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, and attendance at educational conferences, workshops, and seminars related to the community media field.

Anticipated Employment Starting Date: September, 2024

How to Apply

Applicants must submit:

a detailed letter of introduction (describing the degree to which their experience, knowledge, and skills match the identified duties and responsibilities, and the desired experience, skills, and abilities);

their current resume;

a statement regarding the applicant's salary and benefits requirements; and

at least three professional references with telephone numbers.

Submit the application materials described above (as PDF format attachments to an e-mail message) to The Buske Group, c/o Randy VanDalsen (randy@thebuskegroup.com).

The Buske Group has been contracted by Access Humboldt to assist in its Executive Director search.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM (PDT) on Monday, June 3,

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.....Vacant
- 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 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 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, June 4
5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

Zoom Link

<https://zoom.us/j/91761765735?pwd=THRBKzAzSUlmZFZyTzNzVVRBNnRUUT09>

or in person at Babe's,
Pizza and Pasta
4015 Walnut Drive
Eureka, CA

Anytime

LWVHC Webpage
LWVHC Instagram
LWVHC X