

Dear LWVHC Members:

I hope you have a wonderful last month for this year and a happy holiday. Where has this year gone and so fast?

Our League deserves some praise for our efforts to educate voters about the upcoming mid-term elections. Carol Masterson organized seven fora to review local candidates positions on issues. Anne Hartline arranged for voter registration at four sites from Arcata to Fortuna. This November 48.67% of the 78,757 registered voters in Humboldt County voted. This was an increase over the turnout for the June 5th primary where 42.27% of registered voters voted. My wife and I worked at a polling place and were pleased to see several people about our age who had never voted before. If you would like to learn about serving at polling places or to see additional information about elections, The Humboldt County office of Elections has lots of data. This website will get you started: <https://humboldtgov.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=76>

I hope you had a chance to attend the Electoral College meeting that was scheduled for November 29th. We owe many thanks to **Byrd Lochtie** who led the discussion and **Anne Hartline** for organizing and running this important event. It is time to work together to ensure the future of our threatened democracy.

I was so sorry for the financial tragedy that the League experienced in November. A scam email supposed to have been from me was sent to our new Treasurer who paid what was asked. This has been particularly hard on **Hawley Riffenburg** who agreed recently to become our Treasurer. She has done all the appropriate things and informed police and others about this event. A local media group wrote a story to warn other local non-profits about these scams so some good has come from our tragedy (<https://lostcoastoutpost.com/search/?q=League+scam>). We all need to be careful now that we use email so much. I too was a scam victim as a member of another local board. Please thank Hawley for all she is doing for the League and for all she has done to ensure that such a scam will not work on the League in the future.

As I told you last month, the League needs a Communication Director. This person works with the website/Facebook chair, the chair of traditional media publicity and the editor of the Voter. I didn't hear from anyone so please let me know if you are interested.

Wasn't it good to finally get some rain at the end of November? Our state and especially northern California needed the water. Hope your home and garden are doing well.

Have a good month and thanks again for being member of our League.

Rollin Richmond,
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.



Leslie Leach (right with Byrd Lochtie) hosted a wonderful LWVHC Holiday Party at her home. It was a potluck gathering that allowed everyone a chance to catch up away from work and volunteering. Happy New Year!



Program Planning 2019 LWVC

by Judy Bennett, Program Director

“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 League, after study and consensus. Program planning culminates in the delegates’ adoption of a statewide program at League convention, this year in Pasadena.*

Program Planning at the state level is coming up in January. League is a grassroots 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 and achieve a better idea of what areas of emphasis they want LWVC to pursue. Also, there are two suggestions of position concurrence to discuss; Policing and Criminal Justice and more recently Voter Representation/Election Process. These are both positions worth studying in today’s political climate.

What will LWVC do to participate in the LWVUS Campaign to Make Democracy Work? Should we focus on community education? Where does the census fit in to our priorities? 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 make your voice 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 27 at 2pm at the Humboldt Area Foundation, Emerson Room.**

New League Members

Connie Wolfson

David Marshall

Deborah Musick

STATE OF COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

by Debbe Hartridge

Time to mark your calendars for our annual State of the Community Luncheon, to be held at the Adorni Center Friday, April 12. The luncheon is our major fundraiser as well as a time to be inspired by the 2019 recipients of our Civic Contribution Award. We have so many worthy local organizations and individuals that it’s a challenge each year for the committee to pick the award winners.

This year we’ll honor Dell Arte International, a unique theatre program which, back in 1971, chose Blue Lake as the spot to develop a physical theatre like none other. Described by Joan Schirle, founding artistic director, Dell Arte is “a work-in-progress, a living entity, a company-school-laboratory-incubator-presenter-artistic community-home.” Their original plays have tackled local issues, their students come from all over the world, and they perform locally as well as internationally and in other parts of the US.

The individual we will honor is Michele McKeegan. She was instrumental in founding Six Rivers Planned Parenthood and served as the executive director from 1975 until her retirement in 1992. After retirement, she has steadfastly volunteered with the Keep Eureka Beautiful group, whose mission is “*to encourage residents and businesses to maintain and enhance the beauty of this Victorian Seaport. Communities that are kept clean and attractive enjoy more economic benefits and experience less crime.*”

Watch your Voter and check our website for info about ticket purchase and details. The luncheon tends to sell out, so we recommend you plan ahead.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Keith Flamer, Director Social Policy

According to Human Trafficking Search in 2017, 8,759 cases of human trafficking were reported to the NHTH, representing over 10,000 individual victims, almost 5,000 potential traffickers, and more than 1,500 businesses involved in human trafficking. This was a 13 percent increase in cases compared to 2016. Women and girls were disproportionately victimized, comprising approximately 80 percent of the identified survivors. The 2017 statistics categorize human trafficking in three groups: (1) sex trafficking; (2) sex and labor trafficking; and, (3) labor trafficking. Sex trafficking is the most common among these groups, followed by sex and labor trafficking, and labor trafficking.

The following statistics are telling:

- ☐ 51% of identified victims of trafficking are women, 28% children and 21% men
- ☐ 72% people exploited in the sex industry are women
- ☐ 63% of identified traffickers were men and 37% women
- ☐ 43% of victims are trafficked domestically within national borders

The League of Women Voters of the United States at their convention in June 2014 adopted a Human Trafficking Position. It states that it opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking, which it considers to be a form of modern day slavery. In addition to advocating strict legislation and public policy, and enforcement of human trafficking laws, the League's position is to support essential services for victims and education and awareness programs in our communities and schools.

Human trafficking is an issue in Humboldt County. Community organizations have banded together in a project called the Star Network. The Star Network is in its infancy. It has met twice, and the LWWHC may want to be included in that project.

The LWWHC's Board of Directors is looking for League members to attend the next Star Network meeting with me, to be held at the Faith Center on Bay Street on January 8th at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in attending the upcoming Star Network meeting as a League observer, please contact Keith Flamer, the Social Policy Director at keith-flamer@redwoods.edu.

After an assessment is made regarding the goals, aspirations and plans of the Star Network, the Board of Directors may wish to pursue membership in the program, and they may request League volunteer(s) to work as a liaison League members to the Star Network.

FOSTER CARE STUDY

By Michelle Fell-Casale

In keeping with direction from League members and the Board, a committee has been meeting for a number of months to update the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County's position on Foster Care. Key community stakeholders are being contacted for input. Committee members include **Marylou Lowry** and **Michele Fell-Casale**, co-chairs, **Keith Flamer**, **Cindy Humphrey** and **Linda Yates**. Judy Bennett is the Board representative to the committee.

The committee encourages League members to attend the April program meeting, at which our findings will be presented.

Election Day is like Christmas for Humboldt County Poll Workers

by Hawley Riffenburg, Treasurer

Year round, Election Officials are busy preparing for an election with archiving, creating and offering training, implementing new requirements and communicating with a volunteer staff of about 400 poll workers for the big day of the year. On Election Day, cadre of almost 450 election devotees arrive at their stations at 6:00 am, respond to many inquiries and unique circumstances assisting voters and deliver ballots to the Elections office by 10:00 pm where the results of 29,610 ballots are reported and verified and they wrap up around 2:00 am. The next morning, our incredible elections officials arrive at 8:00 am to resume verifying 24,588 conditional, provisional and vote by mail ballots received at polling places and in the mail through Friday. Election Day feels like the excitement and magic of Christmas for everyone handling the ballots.

This year, I volunteered to be a clerk at a precinct. I received a letter clearly communicating training sessions offered at varied and accommodating times. Each election has unique trainings are updated every year to stay in compliance with changing State regulations that cover a 60-page well-organized manual.

All of the tasks are simple, but every step has to be validated in writing so that everyone who has been near a ballot is signed in and every piece of equipment and ballot is shipped and received with seals being to document the guardianship of the ballots and election equipment. Everyone I worked with was attentive and thorough with all the processes. The PollPad was introduced this year so there was only one person able to verify registration. Fortunately, voters came arrived at the poll in a steady, constant stream. As people left they frequently thanked poll officials for their service.

In November's 6th election, 54,198 ballots were cast from 144 precincts with 41 different ballots to cover local races over 4,052 square miles. A ballot box programmed to count only the votes for the precinct in which it is installed. Part of the election cycle is a public validation of the ballot counting equipment and the software. This election's ballot had 4 pages, employees spent 30 hours marking a minimal number of test ballots that covered all the voting options, incorrect precinct, write-ins, and under/over voting combinations. First, all the test ballots were scanned in a station and Kelly Sanders proceeded to visually inspect each incorrectly marked ballot as tagged by the center's counter. She completed this in an hour and ran a report of the scanned ballots to compare to the same ballots being run through a ballot box programmed for each of 41 precincts. For the first run, Judith loaded the software for the first precinct and ran a zero tape to verify the test started with a zero count. Then we fed the 8 ballots through into the box and created a report tape. Everyone inspected the manual report of the test data to the scanned and ballot box reports. We shared a happy moment when the three totals matched. These reports are part of the election archive now. After 2 hours, I left impressed by how succinctly and clearly the counting process was verified while Kelly and Judith continued the test which would not be complete until generated similar reports for the remaining 40 precinct ballot boxes.

We are fortunate to have such capable and dedicated Election's officials quietly orchestrating our elections and ensuring the everyone in Humboldt County is empowered to vote and that their vote is accurately counted and reported. The number of ballots they verify is astounding when you consider how they staff this feat: 6 full time employees of the Office of Elections and Voter Registrar, 14 extra help employees who being working a month before election until certification is complete, 12 election night volunteers, about 400 poll workers and rovers on election day. If you are looking for an experience that will boost your confidence and understanding of election results, apply now on the Elections Office website to be a poll worker in the next election.

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

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www.lwvhc.org
info@lwvhc.org

Who's who in the League?!

2018-2019 BOARD

President.....Rollin Richmond
Vice President.....Deborah Downs
Secretary.....Patricia-Anne WinterSun
Treasurer.....Hawley Riffenberg
Program Director.....Judy Bennett
Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
Forum Director.....Carol Masterson
Voter Service Director.....Anne Hartline
Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
Webmaster/Social Media Chair.....Kathy Johanson
VOTER Editor.....Julie Kelly
Community Education DirectorNancy Kay
Social Policy Director.....Keith Flamer
Communication Director.....Vacant
Traditional Media/Publicity Chair.....Jessica Snow

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.

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 _____

FOLLOW US — ***WE HAVE SEVERAL WAYS!!***

WEBSITE = lwvhc.org

***FACEBOOK = League of
Women Voters Humboldt County***

TWITTER = @LWVHumboldt



Join Now!

PENS

Leslie R. Leach, Natural Resources Director

Many VOTER readers will know about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP) that “covers an estimated surface area of 1.6 million square kilometers, an area twice the size of Texas or three times the size of France”

(www.theoceancleanup.com). Knowing about the GPGP has made me more aware of purchasing plastic items, especially one-time use plastic items. Therefore, at the last board meeting, when the question came up of whether to order more pens with the League name on them for promotional purposes, a discussion ensued. Although I like the pens, I pointed out that they are one-use plastic items because they are not refillable. Another board member told us that she was using a pen made of recycled cardboard. It did have some plastic on it, but the amount of plastic is greatly reduced.

The board then voted not to purchase more of the plastic pens. That decision may seem like a drop in the Pacific Ocean, but it's a drop for the health and well-being of our only home, Earth.

The League of Women Voters does great work in many areas including the environment. A board discussion leads to a vote that leads to a change. And as Margaret J. Wheatley observes, “All change, even very large and powerful change, begins when a few people start talking with one another about something they care about.”



STATEMENT FROM OUR TREASURER

by Hawley Riffenburg, Treasurer

I offer my statement with the hope of gaining your confidence regarding LWVHC's financial security. I deeply regret issuing a check for \$3,290.65 to a scammer through only email communication as reported recently by the Lost Coast Outpost, even though I did so believing that I was helping Rollin conduct Board business. Since becoming aware that I was a victim of an email scam specifically targeted at nonprofit treasurers by impersonating the organization's president, I have responded to and reported on every recommendation made by the Board, Umpqua's Fortuna Branch and the Eureka Police Department. A fraud claim was filed, cashing checks was immediately suspended, a new checking account was created and a request was sent to Empower Federal Credit Union to return the funds. Officer John Omev of the Eureka Police Department expedited opening a theft case and forwarding the necessary information to New York for investigation. I also filed an Online Fraud Incident Report on the FBI. Look for updates in the VOTER as the cases proceed.

The Board has been very generous with their support and helpful suggestions as I learn and we work through this difficult situation. A preventive measure that I have begun is to email the details of an expense to the executive committee and wait for 'approve' replies before printing. The Board will discuss future updates on the case and make all necessary recommendations to do all we can to recover the funds.

I am especially thankful for the professionals I met reporting this crime who reported the theft and who guided me through the many steps. Janet East, Universal Associate, and Katy Roe, Relationship Banker, of Umpqua's 'World's Greatest Bank' Fortuna Branch and EPD Officer John Omev, who all went above and beyond to quickly and accurately document the crime in detailed reports to secure our funds from future fraud and request that the funds be returned. Janet was our liaison with the fraud department and advised me on the process. Three days later, we requested Empower Federal Credit Union to return the funds. Katy Roe graciously expedited the paperwork for opening a new checking account before the Veterans Day weekend and the signers were saved a trip to the bank. The checking account was opened following the November Board meeting. Officer John Omev immediately followed up on the details and advised me to file the FBI report.

I welcome and will respond to your ideas and concerns for the security of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County's finances. My email is hriffenburg@gmail.com.



P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

LWVHC Calendar

- **Board Meeting** **Tuesday, 1/8/2019**
 545pm
- **VOTER article deadline** **Friday, 1/18/2019**
- **State Program Planning Mtg** **Sunday,**
 1/27/2019
Emmerson Rm, Humb Area Found., **2pm**
- **Board Meeting** **Tuesday, 2/12/2019**
 545pm
- **Local Program Planning Mtg** **Thursday,**
 2/21/2019
Location to be announced **530pm**