



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

February, 2020

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

This month's meeting ...

Time to Celebrate!

by Jary Stavely

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters, so the board has voted to turn the February 11 meeting into a birthday party! Attendees can expect to have a festive time at the gathering, which will also include program planning, this year in conjunction with national goals. Dorine Real promises to bring one of the Westport Hotel's famous cakes to help us celebrate, and there will be other goodies in addition to our customary coffee and tea.

The party is part of several actions which have been planned to mark the League's centennial. On Sunday the 9th, the League will be offering voter registration and election information at the Harbor Lite Work Party, between 2 and 4 PM. Letters celebrating our work are due to appear in local newspapers and on social media during that week.

A Message from Our Founder ...

Suffragists were never dismayed when they were a tiny group and all the world against them. What care they now when all the world is with them? March on, suffragists—the victory is yours.

The trail has been long and winding; the struggle has been tedious and wearying, you made sacrifices and received many hard knocks. Be joyful today.

— Carrie Catt, February 13, 1920

Plan to attend our 100th Birthday Party, 10 AM February 11 at the Caspar Community Center, and bring a friend to help celebrate. As usual, doors will open at 9:30 for early conversation.



LWV Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, strives to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

President's message ...

Three “P’s” and Three “Dots”

By Nancy Kleiber

February, 2020 is the League of Women Voters' 100th anniversary month. It is only fitting that at our February 11th meeting, we celebrate our community birthday by honoring the founding *Principles* of the League that have guided the development, over the decades, of our consensus-based *Positions*, allowing us to undertake effective educational and action *Programs*. These are the three “P’s” of the League.

At this meeting we will review the proposed program emphasis for the U.S. League, which will be holding its biennial convention in late June of 2020. We will also set our local program focus for the next year. Program Planning allows all of us to participate in deciding our future course of action and prioritizing issues for 2020-21. That's where the three “dots” come in. Your votes count!

In 2018 the national convention voted to campaign for “Making Democracy Work,” utilizing core League positions in the area of Voting Rights and Election Reform. Since then, our organization has been active across the country in opposing voter suppression tactics. LWVUS, with support from all state and local chapters, was a key mover in the passage by the House of Representatives of the *For the People Act*, which is still awaiting action in the Senate.

For 2020-2022 the LWVUS Board is recommending that the “Making Democracy Work” campaign be continued, working specifically on:

- Redistricting
- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Campaign Finance/Money in Politics

This past year LWV of Mendocino County ambitiously broadened our local focus to include not only “Making Democracy Work” but also Environment/Climate Change, Behavioral Health, Organization Building and Census 2020. Too much? Too Little?

Please help us decide. Join us on Tuesday February 11 at 10 AM at the Caspar Community Center for our League birthday and program planning party.

Tips for the Primary Election

Voters who are registered as No Party Preference (NPP) and who vote by mail will receive a ballot with no presidential candidates on it. Independent voters who wish to express their views on a party's candidates must request a party-specific ballot from the County Clerk's office (707-234-6822) or re-register online: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. The deadline to register for voting in the March 3 primary is February 18.

The ballot will include a statewide Proposition 13 concerning bonds for educational facilities, not to be confused with the Schools & Communities First proposition expected on the November ballot, which seeks reform of the former notorious Prop 13.



Equal Rights Amendment

National League President Chris Carson sent out the following letter regarding the status of the ERA:

On January 16 Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment —crossing the three-fourths threshold of support required from the states. Now we need Congress to remove the deadline so the ERA can become a permanent part of the U.S. Constitution. When the ERA passed Congress in 1972, lawmakers attached a 1977 ratification deadline to it, which they later extended to 1982. Earlier this month, the League of Women Voters of the United States sent a letter to the United States Congress urging them to remove the ratification deadline on the ERA.

Thank you to the many League volunteers who have worked tirelessly for ratification in their states—and who continued to push for ratification even after the deadline passed. Now that the ERA has been ratified, we will not stop fighting for equality under the law and pushing to see the ERA become the next amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Women have waited decades to see the ERA pass, and this is the perfect way to kick off 2020, a year that celebrates 100 years of women’s voting rights. It’s time for Congress to remove the ERA deadline and make this dream a reality!

In making the letter public, LWV also commented: “The year 2020 marks significant anniversaries for the League of Women Voters and the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Furthering equality by removing the deadline on the ERA would be a fitting tribute to those that fought so hard to ensure that women had the right to vote 100 years ago.”

The full text of the letter sent to Congress can be found at

https://www.lwv.org/lwvus-urges-house-and-senate-remove-ratification-deadline-equal-rights-amendment?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=011520.

A Woman’s Place

Voter readers who have been following the impeachment trial may be interested in reading an article about Jeanette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress, and her difficult choice between politics and conscience in the vote for U.S. entry into World War I. From the Washington Post, on the centennial of the vote: https://wapo.st/2nZqaER?tid=ss_mail&utm_term=.7dba76e42f34

Activism Opportunities

by Cindy Plank

Do you feel like there is so much that needs fixing in our world but you don’t know where to start, or what to do? Do you sometimes feel helpless to effect improvement?

You may be surprised to know that there are many activist groups right here on our Mendocino Coast who are quietly, and sometimes not so quietly, working toward specific goals. All of the groups are political in some manner. Some are working toward the goals of a particular political party. Other groups are concentrating on outcomes related to specific topics such as climate action, sustainability, immigration/citizenship, voting rights, civics/civility issues, etc. But all are political in some way.

Drop by Harbor Lite Inn on Sunday, February 9, between 2 and 4 PM and check out some of the work that is being done around our community. There are no strings attached, no one will force you to do anything. Just stop by, stroll among the various tables & get a sense for some of the wonderful work being done toward the betterment of our community and our country. You may be surprised and inspired.

“Work parties” will take place every second Sunday afternoon through 2020. LWV of Mendocino County will be at the upcoming get-together working on voter registration. Come see us.

January meeting

League Learns How to Move Toward Zero Waste

by Jary Stavelly

“I pack containers in my car so I can bring food home without extra packaging,” was one of many tips for reducing the garbage stream passed on by Heather Guevara of Zero Waste Mendocino at the League’s monthly meeting on January 14 at the Caspar Community Center. More than 30 members and friends listened, asked questions, and shared their own practices during the presentation, part of the League’s emphasis on taking action in the face of climate change.

Start With a Step

Heather summarized her presentation with the following list of things to do:

- Pick one item to start—it’s a process
- Just say, “No thank you.”
- Bring your own reusable shopping bags, produce bags, and bulk containers
- Skip the packaging
- Make a to-go bag to leave in your car
- Find alternative uses for products you have finished using
- Complete a home trash audit
- Produce energy and food at home
- Reduce water consumption

Heather created her organization “to encourage the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are reused.” The goal is to shift from the linear economy (Extraction to Product Manufacturing to Distribution to Consumer Use to Disposal) to the circular one (Recycling to Design & Manufacture to Use to Reuse to Recycling, and so on. She introduced what she called The 6 R’s to follow for achieving zero waste. In order of preference: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle, and Rot.

Heather has implemented these concepts at home, and she offered examples from her own experience of all the R’s. She closed her presentation with a quote from Anne-Marie Bonneau: “We don’t need a handful of

people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly.” Heather can be reached at (706) 204-1211 or zerowaste@gmail.com. To learn more, see a fuller article on the LWVMC Facebook page or our new website or visit the Zero Waste Mendocino Facebook page.

Reducing Corporate Packaging

At the January Zero Waste presentation (*see above*) League member Meg Courtney offered to share a template she has for contacting corporations regarding their excessive packaging. She has used it to complain to Costco, for example. The letter begins, “As a consumer I am interested in purchasing your product(s),_____. However, at this time, I am choosing NOT to buy your product, and will not, as long as it is PACKAGED IN PLASTIC THAT CAN ONLY BE USED ONCE!” and continues with a reasoned explanation of the need to cut down on single-use plastics. Many in the audience left their contact info with her in order to create their own letters. *Voter* readers who were not at the meeting may contact her (mcourtney1@mcn.org) or this newsletter (voter@mcn.org) for their own copy of the template.

New Website for Mendocino County League

Our online access point has changed. For local league information, newsletters, and more, now go to:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/mendocino-county>.

LWVMC-sponsored forum ...

Fourth District Candidates Respond to Voters

by Jary Stavelly

Approximately 75 members of the public attended the 4th District Supervisor candidates' forum held by the League at Town Hall on January 16. Candidates Lindy Peters and Dan Gjerde gave opening and closing remarks, and in between, responded to written questions from the audience. League member Sharon DiMauro presented the questions with organizational assistance from Carol Czadek. Meg Courtney, Jane Person and Ron Hock (member Linda Rosengarten's husband) made the question cards available and ferried them to the moderator's table. Sharon Gilligan kept track of time.

The questions covered a wide range of topics, and many of the candidates' responses reflected the facts that Gjerde is the incumbent, having served during the past two terms as 4th District Supervisor (he was previously a Fort Bragg councilmember), and Peters is the challenger, having served 18 years on the Fort Bragg City Council, including a recent stint as Mayor (and service on several Joint Power Agreement boards working with County officials).

When asked to identify the most significant problems facing the county, Gjerde focused on the lack of affordable housing, and cited his work with the local Housing Action Team (HAT) in studying the problem, and at the county level to allow 2nd units (ADU's), as the City of Fort Bragg has already done. He said he is working on having a land trust acquire property for developing housing for the homeless. Peters identified the need to improve the county's economy (especially as a way of improving the housing problem) as his first priority. He also wants to cut down on the county's reliance on outside contractors, get more done on implementing Measure B, improve cannabis regulation, and do more to promote a de-salinization plant for the district.

The candidates' responses covered many other subjects including:

- The County's CEO model of organization, and specifically CEO Carmel Angelo
- Use of expensive consultants
- How to work with other supervisors as a team
- Enforcing Measure V
- Non-lethal Methods of Controlling Predation
- Implementing Measure B
- Cannabis Regulation
- Combatting Climate Change
- Vacation Rentals
- Noyo Harbor District
- Caspar Transfer Station

Both candidates endorsed cutting costs, emergency preparedness, fire departments, tiny homes, and outreach to the Latinx community. They do not believe we have a problem with police brutality on the County or local level.

The forum was videotaped by Mendocino TV and can be seen at: <https://mendocinotv.com/2020/01/16/4th-district-supervisor-candidate-forum/>. It was broadcast on radio by KZYY, and an incomplete version of it can be accessed on the KZYY archive page. A fuller article is on the LWVMC Facebook page and our new website.

Hellos and Goodbyes

Please congratulate new members Marilyn Boese and Red Hamilton for joining us, when you see them, and give them a warm welcome at our gatherings.

Three longtime members have left our rolls for the coming year. Sadly, Grail Dawson passed away in November. Meanwhile, Barbara and Ken Matheson have moved to the Oakmont community outside of Santa Rosa, where they intend to continue their League affiliation.

Support Coast Center Students

League member Barbara Rice is a member of the Friends of Mendocino College Coast Center. She has announced two ways of providing financial assistance for local students:

Direct donation: We are aware of many students who can barely afford food, rent and transportation, let alone college textbooks. If you have the means, I'm hoping you'll consider a gift to replenish our textbook, lending library, and emergency assistance fund. Any amount helps, and is fully tax deductible, and 100% goes directly to our Mendocino Coast students' needs, with nothing taken out for overhead or administrative costs. To make a donation using PayPal or credit card, use this link:

<http://foundation.mendocino.edu/donate>; then scroll all the way down and click on "Other: Donor-Designated." Type in the amount you wish to donate and by the little pencil, type in FMCCC. To donate by check, make check payable to Mendocino College and mail to Anna Kvinsland, Mendocino College Coast Center, 1211 Del Mar Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

Dining out: Need a good reason for a fun night out? How about dining at the MacCallum House and raising money for a good cause? On Wednesday, February 5, Mac House will donate profits to help students at our local campus of Mendocino College. Call 937-0289 to make a reservation, or if you don't want to dine out, do take-out and still contribute to the cause. We'll also have a Valentine's Day themed prize-pull at \$5 a chance or 5 chances for \$20.

Women Continue to March

The fourth annual women's march took place on January 18 in front of Town Hall in Fort Bragg. Though small, the rally reflected a diversity of issues including peace, democracy, equality, and reproductive rights. Pictures by Keith Wyner, to be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/99341233@N06/albums/72157712810367557>, include shots of League members Irene Malone (*seen at right*), Garth Saalfield, Linda Jupiter, Lee Tepper, and Dorine Real, among others.

