

We are hoping your holiday season was filled with fun and family togetherness.

Thank you so much to **Mary Lou Lowry** and **Kathryn Donahue** for presenting the information on the Schools and Community First Initiative at the November membership meeting. Be sure to read the article in this month VOTER to learn more about the initiative and be ready to counter the misinformation that is already coming out against the initiative. The LWV California is a partner in the initiative and is working to make the initiative successful.

The 2020 new year has started and promises to be a very busy time for the League. Being a member of the League, you are supporting the work of a century to provide clear and meaningful information and to have an informed voting populace. This is the opportunity for the League to serve the community by providing facts, not hype. Let's work together to support our community with the reliable information they are seeking. We are looking for volunteers to meet this need and even if it is only a little bit of time, we can use your help. There is a list of activities where the membership can support the work of the League, and we would love to hear your ideas. Please look for the list in the VOTER and see where you can be part of this important work. Reach out to a Board member with your ideas and suggestions for us. The community needs our work.

The next membership meeting will be Thursday, November 30th. Be sure to mark your calendars and look for more information on the meeting.
Happy New Year, Deborah Downs

Our Mission Statement...

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.

HELP WANTED!! PROJECTS THAT NEED MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

WEBSITE CONTENT – Help provide content to post on the webpage. We are looking for people to collect information, pictures, and find content, and send to our web expert, Emily Gunderson, who will put the information onto the website.

GOVERNMENT – The League is looking for individuals interested in keeping the government meetings and processes transparent. We would like monitors of public meetings who will report to the Board and recommending action by the Board when appropriate. Many of the public meetings can be viewed on Humboldt Access now. A person to head up the team of monitors and coordinate the effort is also needed. Please join this team.

EDUCATION – Education is an important part of the League and individuals willing to be part of this work are needed. Education includes helping explain ballot measures, assisting in schools and encouraging our young future voters, and supporting meetings to address current issues. This needs a team and every team needs a leader. Are you the individual who can pull the team together?

HOSPITALITY – Handling events the League provides requires meeting rooms and a few snacks, setting up the location for the annual meeting and membership breakfast. If you love planning events this is the role for you! Would you love to support the Board and leaders by making the event presentations comfortable to the public enjoyable? A team of members willing to make the events happen would be terrific.

THANK YOU, ELECTION VOLUNTEERS!

By Byrd Lochtie

I know this should have been in the October VOTER. I could blame it on the power outages or being out of town or the Children's Author Festival, but I have to admit I just plain forgot until it was too late! But that doesn't mean I am any less grateful to the wonderful Leaguers who spoke up so quickly that I didn't even have to send out a general call for volunteers!

Thank you to **Sylvia Shaw, Deborah Downs, Anne and Duke Diehl, and Patricia-Anne and George WinterSun** for spending time monitoring the Wiyot Tribal Election on October 5, 2019 and counting votes at the end of the election. Thank you to **Janine Randall** for checking the P. O. Box on Saturday for any last minute mailed-in ballots. Thank you **Elaine Weinreb** for volunteering until you had to work at the last minute. This is a fun and easy way to add a few dollars to our budget.

We set up and take down the voting booths that we borrow from the county. Thank you, **Kelly Sanders and your staff** for making these available to us. The voters seem to appreciate having the booths there for privacy.

And thank you to Fawn Lopez of the Wiyot staff for providing us with delicious food all day long!

Local Program Planning is the time for all Leaguers to come together and decide what we will be doing for the next year—2020-2021. This year we are meeting in the A1AA conference room from 5:30 to 7:30 PM on Thursday, January 30, 2020. We will provide light refreshments so you can come right after work and you won't go hungry!

For several years we have been using a schedule of which positions to address each year. This year we agreed in May to look at Transportation and Local Finance during 2019-20. We will look at the Local Finance position we have (and Transportation if we have time) and decide if we want to keep it, change it or drop it.

The final position on our schedule for review is Mental Health, slated for review during 20-21. This means we now need to generate a new schedule for the next five or six years. At our meeting, we also need to look at what the National League is proposing for the national program so we will have to be very efficient with our time.

Schools & Communities First

By Mary Lou Lowry

Many of us want the same things: good schools for our kids, a healthy family, and safe neighborhoods. But for nearly four decades, **big corporations have not been paying their fair share**, leaving California with the most overcrowded classrooms in the U.S. and with some of the worst ratios of counselors, librarians, and nurses per student. *Schools & Communities First ensures that our schools and communities come first with the resources to educate all of our kids and the services to support all of our families. It closes commercial property tax loopholes benefiting a fraction of corporations and wealthy investors, without affecting homeowners or renters, and reclaims \$12 billion every year to fund world-class schools and strengthen local economies to lift up all Californians. It's time to invest in California's future.*

The Schools & Communities First proposition will be on the ballot in November of 2020, and will fill the corporate loophole that only profits large corporations at the expense of schools, the public and small business. It will allow small businesses to compete on a level playing field by adding a small business real estate property tax exemption up to \$3,000,000.00, and eliminating the personal tax on their business equipment.

This measure mandates full transparency and accountability for all revenue restored to California while guaranteeing existing protections for residential property and agricultural lands.

We need your help! The coalition of partners supporting this reform has rewritten Proposition 1 to include improved protections for small businesses, to include every school district in California, and close the loopholes in Proposition 13 that enable large corporations to avoid property tax reassessment for decades.

We need to gather signatures to have the improved Proposition 1 on the November 2020 ballot. The new petitions are coming out at the end of October. We will need to gather many signatures and we only have until March. I hope you will join our campaign to put *Schools & Communities First*.

Contact Mary Lou Lowry, marylouiselowry@gmail.com or Kathryn Donahue, kddo1002@gmail.com

New League Members

Duke Diehl Shannon Adair Amy Moffat

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

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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

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(2 in same household)

_____ I also want to gift a membership!

Name _____ Phone _____

I am enclosing for my annual membership renewal:

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WE HAVE SEVERAL WAYS!!

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