

Dear League Members:

I was sorry to miss the last Board meeting, but it was a gift to other Board members. I'd gotten a really bad cold or flu, despite having obtained the flu vaccination, and did not want to be responsible for passing it along to Board colleagues. **Deborah Downs** did an excellent job of running the meeting and is willing to be considered to become the next President at the Annual Meeting in May. My time is up by July 1. It is always wonderful to know that there is someone with excellent leadership skills ready to assume this important responsibility.

The Board discussed amending our local bylaws to reflect the positions of the National League that says that non-citizens and young people 16 years old can join the League. The membership of our League does need more diversity and youth. If you know someone who fits these categories, please encourage them to become a member. If cost is an issue, let them know that we have resources to assist them. **Becky Simpson** is our Membership Director.

At the end of January, our State Program Planning meeting recommended that we support positions on housing, water and forest management and the criminal concurrence position. These are all critical issues for our region and the Board agreed with these positions.

Two upcoming events that you should consider attending are: the March Membership Meeting at which John Friedenbach, General Manager of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District will talk to League members about local water issues. This meeting is scheduled for March 17th at 2 PM at the office of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. The other event is scheduled on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the Adorni Center in Eureka. It is the State of the Community Luncheon that honors local people and organizations for their support of our community and also raises funds for the League.

Spring is coming despite some of the frost we've been experiencing lately. In March, we change our clocks again and spring an hour forward. How long are we going to keep doing this for reasons that no longer exist?

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.

### **UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETING**

***John Friedenbach**  
General Manager  
Humboldt Municipal Water District  
Addressing Local Water Issues*

**Sunday, March 17th  
2pm**

*Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District Office  
828 7th Street, Eureka*

Light Refreshments Will Be Served

### **New League Members**

Mary Jo Stepp

Nick Angeloff

## Senator McGuire Comes to Humboldt

by Elaine Weinreb

State Senator Mike McGuire spoke in McKinleyville on Jan. 19 to an audience of about 150 people. These are the highlights of his speech.

**Economics:** "The State of California is America's economic engine," the senator said. "California has been Number One in job growth in the United States of America for the past three years in a row... We have the largest budget reserve in the state's history and the largest rainy day fund in the U.S.A. We have one of the lowest unemployment numbers in the nation. If the nine bay area counties were a nation, it would be the 19th largest economy in the world."

However, he pointed out that the growth has been uneven, favoring the San Francisco Bay Area and the Inland Empire of southern California, but leaving rural areas in the dust. In addition, the state suffers from an economic gender gap, with two thirds of the minimum wage earners being women.

California is taking advantage of its prosperity to pay down some of its bond debts, as well as its debts to the public employees' retirement system and to the teachers' retirement system.

**Education:** The state's most important focus should be on public education, McGuire said. California will put \$125 million into its pre-school programs, so that every low-income child can attend. This program will expand so that by 2022, every child will be included.

\$402 million will be invested in community colleges this year. Every full-time student in a community college can get his or her first year free, and this program will be expanded to a second year as well.

**Health care:** MediCal will expand to include the poorest 19-26 -year-olds. Family leave for the parents of a newborn child will expand to six months.

Cuts in the federal Affordable Care Act have cost California \$20 million this year, and the state is suing the federal government for that amount. In 2013, before the Affordable Care Act was passed, California had an uninsured rate of 13%, and by 2017, that had dropped to 6%. Across the nation, the Affordable Care Act cut the number of medically-induced bankruptcies by half.

**Fires:** Over the past few years catastrophic fires have devastated Lakeport, Santa Rosa, Santa Barbara County, and Mendocino County.

"Sixty percent of Lake County's land mass has burned," McGuire said. He pointed out that in addition to all the personal tragedy, the affected counties lost huge portions of their property tax revenue.

"We have a new reality in this state," he said somberly. "Wildfire season has gone from 138 days to 222 days. The average burn time for a wildfire has gone from six days to 22. Between 2002 and 2016 we've seen 100 million dead or dying trees in the Coastal Range and the Sierra. CalFire is now a year-round firefighting agency."

He added that the state's air firefighting capabilities are being beefed up with surplus military helicopters.

**Forest management:** Although California has been criticized by the president about its forest management policies, 58% of the state's forestlands are owned and managed by the federal government. Only three percent are state-owned and managed. The remainder are privately or tribally owned. The U.S. Forest Service's budget has been cut by \$2 billion since 2016. California on the other hand has invested \$110 million on vegetation management and the removal of dead or dying trees.

**Housing and homelessness:** California has the lowest homeownership rate since the 1940s. California's rental rates are among the highest in the nation. California will devote \$300 million over the next five years to fund affordable housing in rural counties. McGuire added that he was on a bond committee, and made sure that no bond passed without "a significant carve-out for rural counties."

Regarding homelessness, \$2 billion over the next four years will be invested in permanent housing for those who are unsheltered.

"We are going to build 14,000 permanent units," he said, adding that drug, alcohol, and mental health counseling would be provided onsite in housing projects for the previously unsheltered population.

"\$2.7 billion is moving into Humboldt County this year," he said, "for emergency homeless services and housing."

**Fishing:** Federal money is on its way for those who were slammed by the Dungeness crab season's closure in the past.

**Energy:** In May, a session will be held in Eureka to discuss offshore wind, which is a good economic opportunity for the county, but could harm fishing grounds.

**Drugs:** An opioid addiction center will open next year in Eureka.

**Transportation:** McGuire hopes to move the Highway 101 at Last Chance Grade inland. Humboldt will also receive an influx of road funding for both incorporated and unincorporated communities.

The state has passed legislation dissolving the North Coast Railroad Authority, and promoting the Great Redwood Trail on its right-of-way.

"There is no way that we're going to get a train through the Eel River Canyon," said McGuire. "We're going to turn that 320-mile railroad into one of the best trails in the world, going from Humboldt Bay down to San Francisco Bay."

**Nursing education:** "Within the next 24 months," McGuire said, "we are going to get a Bachelors of Science nursing degree program kick-started here at Humboldt State and at College of the Redwoods."

At the close of his talk, the senator gave the newly elected Supervisor Steve Madrone a ten-minute opportunity to speak, and then answered numerous questions from the audience.

## STATE OF COMMUNITY LUNCHEON AWARDEES FOR 2019

I hope that you have all marked your calendars for the League's State of the Community Luncheon, to be held at the Adorni Center Friday, April 12. Our keynote speaker will be Humboldt-Del Norte Film Commissioner, Cassandra Hesseltine. The Film Commission is "the official advocate for filming" in our area. Recently, Ms. Hesseltine has been working with the producers of a Netflix original movie that includes scenes shot in Del Norte County on the Smith River. The Commission provides all sorts of services to film crews, including finding locations and catering, as well as hair dressers, musicians, animal handlers and more.

Our two honorees are Dell'Arte International, the well known theatre company based in Blue Lake, and Michele McKeegan, long time executive director of Six Rivers Planned Parenthood and founder of Keep Eureka Beautiful.

**There is so much to say about Dell'Arte.** The company was created over 40 years ago by visionary minds, working on a shoestring budget, and has grown to serve Humboldt County audiences, international students, prison inmates, school children, and many local non-profits. At any given time there are some 90 students enrolled in college level theatre arts programs, including a three year Masters Degree track. Students, both American and international, work with local non profits, of which over 20 are listed on their website, from the Breast Cancer Awareness Project to Food for People. An original musical, *Mary Jane*, was performed in New York City, and other shows have been taken to South America, Los Angeles and Europe. The Mad River Festival in Blue Lake every summer draws thousands of visitors. They also collaborate with the Humboldt Folklife Society to put on the hugely popular annual Folklife Festival. Their website states that the school was recognized by the President's Honor Roll, a national award for community service: Dell'Arte International was first named to the Honor Roll for 2009, and in 2011 was named to the 2010 President's Honor Roll With Distinction.



**Michele McKeegan** and Judy Webb, newcomers to Humboldt in the early 1970s, had both volunteered for Planned Parenthood clinics in other areas, Judy in Southern California and Michele in Hawaii. Seeing a need for family planning services here, they rolled up their sleeves and decided to do something about it, and Six Rivers Planned Parenthood was the result. In 1976 with community support from the Health Department and the medical community it opened its doors in Henderson Center and over the years received many awards from Planned Parenthood Federation for excellence in medical services and education programs. As executive director, Michele oversaw much growth and change. The Eureka clinic these days handles about 12,000 patient visits annually, serving women, men

and teens. Contraception and sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment form the bulk of the services, and first trimester abortion care is also offered. Education programs in schools throughout the county reach about 4,000 students. After retiring from her eventful career as executive director, Michele co-chaired a capital campaign which raised over \$2.6 million to fund a beautiful new health center, open since 2006. Her nationally noted book, *Abortion Politics: Mutiny in the Ranks of the Right* (MacMillan, Inc. pub.) was published in 1992. Sara Weddington, the attorney who argued *Roe v. Wade*, said of it: "McKeegan's book is mandatory reading for anyone who wants to know where we are headed in the 1990s."

Michele's love for this area manifested itself in a new project after she retired. In 1996 she founded Keep Eureka Beautiful, an all volunteer non profit that has planted hundreds of trees along Eureka's streets. Besides adding beauty, research has shown that trees contribute to a more liveable community by preventing crime, calming traffic and promoting economic development. The organization advocates for beautification efforts and policies as well. Michele remains active with the group, and her husband Ed is now also an enthusiastic tree planter.

## Taking Action

*by Leslie R. Leach, Natural Resources Director*

Because I hadn't been able to fish much that year, I hadn't bought a license, so I decided to take advantage of California's free fishing day when no fishing license was required, September 28, 2002. Although there were reports of dead fish on the Klamath that week, my husband and I and a friend decided to go fishing anyway. After all, how bad could it be? The day was beautiful, sunny and cool, perfect for fishing. But what a horrific fishing trip it turned into. When we launched the boat, we could see what appeared to be hundreds of dead salmon floating in the Klamath River. Once we were underway, I began breathing in the exhaust fumes from the boat in order to keep from gagging on the stench of rotting fish carcasses. My husband and our friend attempted to make weak jokes about all the fish anybody could want. I wept.

Since then, I've been following the status of the Klamath River, writing letters to various politicians and government agencies. As the Natural Resources Director for the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County (LWVHC), I recently asked the board members if I could send a letter to the California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB). The purpose of the letter was to have the League support the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR). The conclusion reached in the EIR is that removing four dams from the Klamath River best meets the objectives of the CSWRCB. (Please see the letter in this edition of the VOTER.) The LWVHC board voted unanimously in favor of my sending a letter IF the LWVC agreed to allow it.

The next step was to get in touch with someone from the LWVC who would correspond and collaborate with me. To the LWVC's credit, someone got in touch with me very quickly. Researching the positions of the LWVHC and LWVC to see how their Natural Resources positions supported the action suggested by the Draft EIR took some time, but it was time well spent. I wrote a letter and submitted it, and I quickly received a response that the letter was fine and after some formatting of my rough draft, the President of LWVC, **Helen Hutchinson** signed it. The President of LWVHC, **Rollin Richmond** also signed it. And it was sent to the CSWRCB as an email and by the U. S. Post Office.

The League of Women Voters is well known for being nonpartisan and for its thorough studies of issues. Therefore, when the LWV gives its support to an issue, it's meaningful support. People who make decisions that affect us all pay attention to the League's recommendations. Taking this action that means so much to me took some time, but it was well worth it. I encourage you as members of LWVHC to attend some meetings on issues that mean a lot to you. Look in your Annual Meeting Kit and read the League's positions on the issues. If there is a position that supports the action you want to take, let the board of LWVHC know about it to decide what action may be taken. That is democracy in action.



February 21, 2019

Ms. Michelle Siebal  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights – Water Quality Certification Program  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Via Email: [WR401Program@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:WR401Program@waterboards.ca.gov)

**RE: Lower Klamath Project – Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).**

Dear Ms. Siebal:

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) and the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, California (LWVHC) strongly support the removal of four dams on the Klamath River. The removal of the four dams will effectively improve water quality for humans, fish, and other wildlife and comply with the Clean Water Act water quality objectives. The improved water quality will also provide for the cultural and economic interests of Native Americans, recreational anglers, and the commercial fishing fleet of northern California.

This support of the proposed project of the Draft EIR is founded on the LWVC's and LWVHC's positions on natural resources, specifically water. The LWVC's position:

- protect the natural environment in areas of both water origin and water use
- reserve stream flows for protection of fish and wildlife habitat and other in-stream uses
- encourage off-stream storage; discourage additional on-stream dams
- provide for assessment of economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of water projects

The LWVHC's position: coordinated interagency planning and action are critical to successful management and to the accomplishment of the following objectives:

- rivers and streams should be left in their natural states whenever possible, with each case considered on its own merits.
- total watershed management, including preservation and restoration should be coordinated by qualified professionals so the economic interests, aesthetic issues, and health concerns can exist in harmony in our county and our future water supply can be provided adequately.

The State Water Resources Control Board has identified the following Proposed Project objectives, as required under CEQA Guidelines, section 15124, subdivision (b):

In a timely manner:

1. Improve the long-term water quality conditions associated with the Lower Klamath Project in the California reaches of the Klamath River, including water quality impairments due to *Microcystis aeruginosa* and associated toxins, water temperature, and levels of biostimulatory nutrients.
2. Advance the long-term restoration of the natural fish populations in the Klamath Basin, with particular emphasis on restoring the salmonid fisheries used for subsistence, commerce, tribal cultural purposes, and recreation.
3. Restore volitional anadromous fish passage in the Klamath Basin to viable habitat currently made inaccessible by the Lower Klamath Project dams.
4. Ameliorate conditions underlying high disease rates among Klamath River salmonids. The objectives further the underlying purpose of the Proposed Project (removal of four dams), which is the timely improvement of water quality related to the Lower Klamath Project within and downstream of the current Hydroelectric Reach and the restoration of anadromous access upstream of Iron Gate Dam (the current barrier to anadromy).

Sincerely,

Helen Hutchison  
President, LWVC

Rollin Richmond  
President, LWVHC





THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT

**Luncheon Committee**

Judy Bennett, Chair

Kay Escarda

Nancy Frost

Debbe Hartridge

Sharolyn Hutton

Nancy Kay

Lorey Keele

Julie Kelly

Byrd Lochtie

Carolyn Presscott

Judith Stoffer

LWVHC cordially invites you to the  
28<sup>th</sup> Annual State of the Community Luncheon to honor

**Dell'Arte International**

and

**Michele McKeegan**  
**Community Volunteer**

Master of Ceremonies – Anne Hartline  
The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

State of the County Remarks – Rex Bohn, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Keynote Speaker – **Cassandra Hesseltine, Film Commissioner**  
Humboldt-Del Norte Film Commission

**Friday, April 12, 2019**

11:30 Seating

12:00 – 1:30 Luncheon and Program  
Adorni Center

Please detach and send with your check

*My check is enclosed to support the 2019 State of the Community Luncheon:*

- ☐ A \$45 contribution entitles a **League member** to one luncheon seat.
- ☐ I wish to support the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County and have my name printed in the program. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s) (**\$65 for one ticket, \$130 for two tickets, \$250 for 4 tickets or \$500 for 8 tickets.**)
- ☐ I am unable to attend the luncheon, but I wish to support the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County with a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Payment must be received in advance. Please make checks payable to LWVHC and mail to  
**4835 Dickson Drive, Eureka, CA 95503 or use [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) at [LWVHC.org](http://LWVHC.org)**  
**(707) 442-2729**

Contributions to the LWVHC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

## The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

434 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501

P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502

[www.lwvhc.org](http://www.lwvhc.org)

[info@lwvhc.org](mailto:info@lwvhc.org)

### 2018-2019 BOARD

President.....Rollin Richmond

Vice President.....Deborah Downs

Secretary.....Patricia-Anne WinterSun

Treasurer.....Nancy Kay

Program Director.....Judy Bennett

Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach

Social Policy Director.....Keith Flamer

Government Director.....Elaine Weinreb

Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie

Forum Director.....Carol Masterson

Voter Service Director.....Anne Hartline

Membership Director.....Becky Simpson

Membership Advocacy.....Hawley Riffenburg

Webmaster/Social Media Chair.....Kathy Johanson

VOTER Editor.....Julie Kelly

Community Education Director .....Nancy Kay

Communication Director.....Julie Kelly

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](http://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!!**

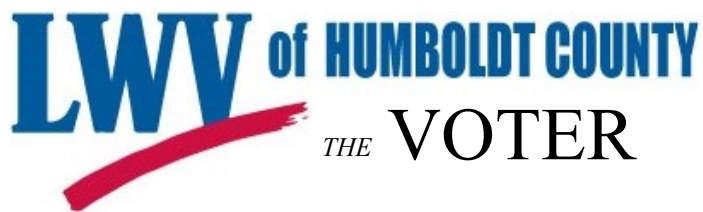
***WEBSITE = [lwvhc.org](http://lwvhc.org)***

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

***TWITTER = @LWVHumboldt***



**Join Now!**



P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

## LWVHC Calendar

- **Board Meeting** **Tuesday, 3/12/2019**  
**530pm**
- **VOTER article deadline** **Friday, 3/18/2019**
- **Membership Mtg** **Sunday, 3/17/2019**  
*Humb Bay Muni Water District* **2pm**  
*828 7th St Eureka*
- **Board Meeting** **Tuesday, 4/9/2019**  
**530pm**
- **State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL)**  
*Adorni Center, Eureka* **Friday, 4/12/19**  
**Noon**



## **LWVHC Board Briefs February 2019** **Secretary, Patricia-Anne WinterSun**

In February your board:

- Agreed to budget \$1500 for History Day for 2020
- Decided to donate \$500 from our education fund to KEET/PBS North Coast
- Resolved that we would send a letter to the California State Water Resources Control Board in support of Klamath Dams Removal
- Rescheduled the February General Membership Meeting