

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

October 2022

Paula Cohen and Dorine Real, Co-Presidents

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

October activities ...

Pros, Cons, and Candidates

our Voter Service presentations cover State, County, and City This month voters will have several opportunities to learn more about the candidates and measures on the November ballot. Here is a list of candidate forums and proposition explorations taking place in October, listed in order of occurrence:

> 10/7: Albion/Little River Fire Protection District Board candidate forum, held by the League of Women Voters on Zoom at 6 pm, featuring incumbents Pam Linstedt & Steve Acker, and candidate Dan Gates. League Co-President Paula Cohen will moderate.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83171445467?pwd=UlNKNitGemw2U3JvUGlZdlhyRmM4dz09

10/9: Willits City Council candidate forum and informational meeting on Measures O & P, from 2 to 5 pm at the Little Lake Grange in Willits. Eight candidates will run for three seats. League member Carole Press will monitor the time. This event is sponsored by Little Lake Grange, Willits Economic Localization, LWV Mendocino County, and the Mendocino Women's Political Caucus.

10/11: Mendocino Coast Health Care District Board candidate forum, held by the League of Women Voters on Zoom at 6 pm. Pat Dunbar will moderate the forum, which will feature incumbent John Redding and candidates Susan Savage, Jade Tippett, and Lee Finney for 3 long-term seats, and new short-term appointee Paul Katzeff. A recording of interviews with these candidates conducted on September 21 is available from Mendocino TV.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88674790624?pwd=RWdDOFVYQkN1N3BxZUQvTmJHVFBIZz09 10/14: Fort Bragg City Council candidate forum, held by the League of Women Voters at Town Hall from 6 to 8:30 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting — attend in person or watch live or recorded . (Link will be posted on our website when available). All eleven candidates will respond to three questions posed by

moderator Pat Dunbar, and then given an opportunity to choose another topic to expound on. Nancy Kleiber will assist. 10/18: Pros & Cons of all the state and local ballot measures, presented by the

League on Zoom at 6 pm. Nancy Kleiber will lead several more League members to review the background of the seven California and three Mendocino County measures.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84501248234?pwd=WGJobGVSWmxTdkNwUUIyOGk4VGExdz09

10/19: Informational Meeting concerning Measures O & P, presented by the League on Zoom at 6 pm. Nancy Severy will introduce advocates for passage of

these countywide propositions, who will state their case. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87992784893?pwd=SldpL2hHQTlpSHA4bG55cjdodWpuZz09

President's message

Discover Your Superpower:

You can empower voters

by Dorine Real

Our mission as a League is to "encourage informed and active participation in government," by everyone in our community, in particular, informed voting by every eligible voter. This is just the right way to treat each other in a democratic society. An added benefit is that voting makes citizens recognize that they have a stake, not only in the election result, but in the democratic process itself. This mission means that the Voter Service Committee is

In this issue ... Pro, Cons, and Candidates Discover Your Superpower Support Your League Meet and Greet Returns Labor Day Jackson Forest Reports Bus Stop at The Woods Hubs and Routes Letter from a Member California League Updates National League Dive into Water **LWVMC** Information Links *Click these entries to jump to* the article.

the heart of our organization. For the coming election, our Voter Service Committee, led by Pat and Jane, has taken on a huge workload, with four candidate forums, a local proposition forum, a Pros and Cons of State Propositions program, and distribution of voter education materials. (If you are really focused on the national election, remember that voters who fill out their ballots because of a local or State issue will also vote for national offices.) This team is highly motivated and experienced, but it is small. If you want to help with any of these projects, get in touch with Jane (964-6351 or janeperson@hotmail.com) or Pat (937-3409 or pdunbar@mcn.org).

If you're more comfortable working on your own or with a friend, Jane can give you tips on setting up your own voter registration post. Last month Cindy, Jary, Loreto, and new League member Morning Nichols set up one at the Fort Bragg Farmers Market, and were surprised and pleased to find several new voters. This activity has much more impact than the number of new registrations you get. Just seeing you encourages people to check their registration and to vote. Also, you can distribute the Easy Voter Guide, which explains how to vote and how to get more election information. If you don't want to get out in public, talk it up with your friends. Brag (subtly and modestly) about how you have made a plan: where you will find answers to your questions; when you will fill out your ballot; when and where you will drop it off, mail it, or take it to the polls. Not everyone has formed a strong voting habit, and a little nudge can make a difference. And while the League is nonpartisan, it encourages members to also be active in

partisan efforts, which also increase participation. So you have many choices, but not much time. Empower yourself by empowering voters.

A letter from the membership chair ... Support Your League

by Jary Stavely

Well, we kicked off our new League program year in September with the return of our popular Meet & Greet Your Local Officials event [see article below], but I neglected to remind League members (and interested friends) that it's time to send dues in again. Please take a minute to mail your annual dues to us at P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg, CA. At this time we still rely completely on the U.S. Mail, and do not have an online payment portal. (The MyLO website may imply that one may use PayPal, but that is not so-we do not have a PayPal account, and PayPal sends money intended for us to the Mount Baldy League in Southern California! If you wish to pay with cash, just contact me directly, 964-4942 or jstavely@mcn.org.)

The more we collect at this time, the less we will spend on postage for having to ask later on. The full amount of your regular dues-\$60.00 for an individual membership or \$90.00 for a household-is passed on to the U.S. and California Leagues to support their continuing efforts towards making democracy work and preserving our world. This amount also gives you full membership in both organizations. As these regular dues add nothing to our coffers, we include additional levels of contribution for you to consider when you make your renewal. These fund the activities of our local League. Each membership level is named after a man or woman of the past who strove for human rights and justice:

 Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

• Ida B. Wells was a suffragist, as well as an American investigative journalist,

educator, and an early leader in the civil rights movement.

• Emma Smith DeVoe founded the National Council of Women Voters, which merged with the National Woman Suffrage Association to become the League of Women Voters.

• Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in the South to become a leading abolitionist before the American Civil War. She joined Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony after the Civil War in their quest for women's suffrage. • Frederick Douglass spoke at the Seneca Falls women's rights convention in 1848, urging women not to compromise on their demand for the vote. Donations to our League's Frederick Douglass Diversity Fund allow scholarships and "try us" memberships.

Thank you for remaining a member of a committed group of women and men who are working to make a difference in the future of our country.

How to join/renew for 2022-23:

- · Please make checks payable to LWVMC, and mail to P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg CA 95437.
- Rates:
 - Student Membership Free Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership \$60 Ida B. Wells Household Membership \$90 Emma Smith DeVoe Membership \$100 Harriet Tubman Membership \$250
- Amounts in excess of your individual or household dues will be credited to LWVMC. If you want some of your payment to go to the Frederick Douglass Diversity Fund or to the (tax deductible) LWVMC Education Fund, note that on your check or an accompanying memo.
- Sorry, only Education Fund donations are tax-deductible. If paying by check doesn't work for you, contact Jary at 964-4942 or jstavely@mcn.org.
- If you would like your membership sponsored by the Frederick Douglass Diversity fund (including low income), contact Jary.

A Mendocino County League tradition

Meet & Greet Returns

by Jary Stavely

Over seventy-five government officials, fall election candidates, League members, and other coastal residents turned out for the resumption of the League's Meet & Greet Your Public Officials social event on September 16 at the Caspar Community Center. Before the pandemic it had traditionally been held in March, but the weather was nearly perfect for meeting, greeting, and conversing outdoors this time. The deck on the east side of the building was filled with conversation and good humor, as this particular in-person event renewed contact between the public and its government officials. A great measure of gratitude is due to Jane Person and Pat Dunbar for managing the food and water tables, to Nancy Kleiber, Cindy Plank, and Grant Miller for arranging and dispensing wine, and to Paula Cohen, Dorine Real and Lee Tepper for set up, clean up, and general facilitation. Also, to all the League members who provided the well-received hors *d'oeuvres*. The accompanying photos were taken by Lee, as well.



Labor Dav



Five members of the League of Women Voters marched in the Paul Bunyan Days Parade on Labor Day. Many onlookers clapped and whistled their approval as the contingent made its way along the parade route. Pictured are newly appointed board member Nancy Severy, Treasurer Lee Tepper, Co-President Paula Cohen, Co-President Dorine Real, and Membership Chair Jary Stavely. Photo courtesy of Kathy Holmes of the Fort Bragg Garden Club.

Jackson Forest Reports

Renewed logging plans for the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) were announced in late August. Voter readers following the involvement of Mendocino indigenous groups in managing the JDSF may wish to read the Mendocino Trail Stewards' subsequent statement:

Many of you have already heard the unfortunate news that CalFire has announced the end of the pause on logging in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). We felt a glimmer of hope for community and tribal engagement after the August 19th meeting of the Jackson Advisory Group (JAG), when CalFire unveiled its new "vision" for Jackson, said to prioritize tribal co-management, cultural resource stewardship, and restoration ecology. Jessica Morse, Deputy Secretary of Forest Resources Management at the California Natural Resources Agency, even made an appearance to deliver the new vision to the Public.

Morse spoke eloquently about new management strategies for JDSF, including obtaining funding for operations that won't be tied to timber revenue, and modernizing the management plan to reflect the changing climate and the needs of tribes. "Your activism and engagement has not gone unheard," said Morse.

Just five days later, our renewed hope was turned on its head when CalFire released another press release announcing that logging would resume in the coming weeks on four Timber Harvest Plans: Chamberlain Confluence, Red Tail, Soda Gulch, and Caspar 500. Michael Hunter, Chairman of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, was "shocked" when he read the news. Hunter, who has been in Government-to-Government negotiations with the State for six months regarding tribal co-management of JDSF, said "The State did not even bother to notify the Tribe beforehand. The State wants to continue logging our Pomo Homeland — the Jackson Demonstration State Forest — while negotiating a comanagement agreement with the Coyote Valley Tribe. This makes me question the State's seriousness about co-managing ancestral lands."

The Coalition to Save Jackson followed CalFire with its own press release. "CalFire appears intent on burning bridges," said Matt Simmons, staff attorney at the Environmental Protection Information Center. "The 'pause' in operations made community input and tribal negotiations possible. Now, any progress or goodwill has been shattered. We call on CalFire not to resume logging until they have a new Management Plan."

More information about the Coalition's response is in their press release. Also, Trail Steward board member John P. O'Brien, PhD., will be giving a talk about Jackson State Forest, its history, and the ongoing issues with management for the Audubon Society on October 17 via Zoom (register here).

From a different point of view, on September 18 the Press-Democrat published an op-ed by the head of the California Forestry Association praising what the State Forest has accomplished: https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/opinion/closeto-home-a-success-story-in-forest-management/.

Public transit ...

Bus Stop at The Woods

There's even parking

The League supports the Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) as a worthwhile alternative to the burning of fossil fuels in private vehicles. Little River resident Ronnie James provides an update about MTA service in her part of the coast: Bus Stop at The Woods: This information is for those of you who live along Little River Airport Rd. or any of its connecting roads. Back in April the Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) established a bus stop in front of the Woods Clubhouse. It is part of their Route 60/Coastal schedule. Currently the MTA bus stops at the Woods four times a day, Monday through Friday. There are two southbound stops at 8:25AM and 4:35 PM. You can use the morning run to get to the Anderson Valley and Ukiah. Using the two northbound stops at 9:15 AM and 5:10 PM, you can get to Mendocino, Caspar and Fort Bragg. At your request, the bus will take you along Franklin Street down to Denny's. There is a promised mid-day stop at the Woods when the MTA hires enough drivers. Check the MTA website (mendocinotransit.org) for a full list of schedules. If you want to use this bus service the Woods Cooperative Association (WCA) has authorized limited parking. They request that you park in the area next to the Lodge which is west of the clubhouse. There is no overnight parking at this time. This is a great way to avoid high gas prices. You can shop, make doctor appointments, hike the coast, lower your carbon footprint and even get to work if you have flexible hours. Each bus has two bike racks if you want to get around that way.

Hubs and Routes Game Day

Collaborative Self-Sufficiency

by Cindy Plank

If you weren't there you missed a fun and informative event. Co-founded by Jennifer Kreger and cartographer Rick Hemmings, the Hubs and Routes project [May '21 Voter] provides readiness maps on their website for residents of the Mendocino Coast. At the Game Day, September 10, in the Larry Spring Museum "commons" area on Redwood Avenue in Fort Bragg, there were many enjoyable ways to use the maps and to practice for collaborative self-sufficiency.

At the event was a yards-long map of Mendocino County's coast divided into various "islands". Basically, all of those who live along the Mendocino Coast live on an "island", with waterways of all sorts as borders.

Also on display was a foldable map that will be available to the public, after some additional fundraising to cover the cost. The maps include emergency supply locations, plus the best routes out of each zone, including hiking, biking, paddling "go-arounds," in case bridges aren't available as a result of earthquake, erosion or sea level rise. Check out the Hubs and Routes website for more valuable info.

Jennifer Kreger and Rick Hemmings explain the features of the Routes and Hubs map. (Photo, Cindy Plank) An invitation ...

Dive Into Water

A partner project with Grass Roots Institute

The topic of water is local and global. It touches many aspects of our lives, from our basic need to drink water to food (agricultural water) to health (water quality) to safety (floods) to leisure (water sports). Whatever your interest in water, you are invited to join a group that's forming to learn about water issues, educate the public, and possibly advocate on water solutions.

Stimulated by the current drought, members of the Grass Roots Institute have already formed a group and done a public information event. Now our League's water issue team is linking with them to go even deeper. To get involved, contact Geri (geri.morisky@gmail.com).

Letter from a Member

Dear Friends,

I now am living in Sonoma, in a retirement community; my current address is 800 Oregon St. Apt. 148, Sonoma, CA 95476, and phone is (707) 672-4860. Email is not changed; that's how I continue to receive your welcome messages and E copies of The Voter. Please keep up the good work! It is of tremendous value and so are all of you!

I no longer drive and can't attend any of your meetings in person, but would really like to attend the ZOOM meeting Oct. 18 on the state ballot measures. Thank you so much.

JoAn Blackstone

P.S. Your message re: this and other meetings came on my 90th birthday. [Happy *birthday*, *JoAn* — *eds.*]

California League Updates

A recent message from California President Carol Moon Goldberg contains much information about our state League's election resources, advocacy, and its upcoming convention. The complete message includes links to the Easy Voter Guide, Pros & Cons, Ballot Recommendations, and current Legislative Advocacy.

Also, the regional collective of Santa Clara County Leagues has formally supported a recommendation to change county elections there to Ranked Choice Voting. You can read their letter to their Supervisors.



A message from US League President Dr. Deborah Turner announces the creation of "the LWVUS Legal Center, a database on lwv.org that showcases up-to-date information about our litigation work. Users can search cases by name, state, or topic to find information on historic and active cases."

She also suggests that we "join the League of Women Voters and our friends at Vot-ER, a nonpartisan organization integrating voter registration into the health care system, for our GOTV phone banks! We'll be calling people that health care providers and organizations helped register to vote to make sure they're prepared for the upcoming November election. Spanish-speaking volunteers are especially encouraged." Online training is offered for those who wish to participate. Contact istavely@mcn.org for links to zoom registration on several dates in late October and early November.

LWVUS Education Fund has launched a nationwide effort to combat mis- and dis-information called the Democracy Truth Project. It is considered one of the four prongs of its "Women Power Democracy" program focus.

As we do independently in Mendocino County, many local Leagues are doing youth voter registration through the annual LWVUS project. (Cindy Plank regularly places state and national information such the link above on our Facebook page.)

On September 21, the US House passed the bipartisan *Presidential Electoral Reform Act.* The bill would strengthen the *Electoral Count Act* and has been lauded as a step against future insurrections like the one that occurred on January 6, 2021. The Senate also unanimously passed their legislation, the *Electoral* Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act, out of the Senate Rules Committee on September 27. Advances in election reform, however, did not extend to financial transparency in the Senate's decision not to advance the DISCLOSE Act the following day. In response, LWV CEO Virginia Kase Solomón stated: "The League will continue to fight to ensure that voters can make decisions free from the influence of dark money and special interest groups in our politics. We call on our elected officials to continue to put this issue at the forefront of the fight for our democracy."

Finally, Human Rights Special Interest Group (HRSIG), one of whose members presented United Nations Artwork at a recent Annual Meeting [May '21 Voter], has announced the release of a new publication:

We are pleased to announce our latest work on Your Human Right to Vote. Once again we highlight work of the global community, starting with the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This fundamental document states plainly and unequivocally--the right to vote is a human right. This right is enshrined in many international covenants adopted by Member States of the United Nations. This right is also included in Amendments to the US Constitution. Yet, we cannot be complacent--we must continue to protect this human right to vote and raise awareness of infringements on this right, especially in our local communities. We are mindful to *Think Globally and Act Locally*. Please see the overview of Your Human Right to Vote in our third Briefing Book, available for download here at no cost. Go to our website for a list of all our publications and presentations.

Land Acknowledgement

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County wishes to honor the land we are on and its native peoples. We want to offer recognition and respect; to counter the "doctrine of discovery" with the true story of the people who were already here; to support larger truthtelling and reconciliation efforts; and to remind ourselves that colonization is still happening. We acknowledge that the land where we live and work is un-ceded territory of indigenous peoples since time began. We are surrounded by the traditional, ancestral territory and current homeland of many indigenous nations.

Contact LWVMC

By mail: P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg CA 95437

By email: voter@mcn.org

Our website: lwvmendo.org

Our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1

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

Links

MCHCD interviews: https://mendocinotv.com/2022/09/20/the-mendocino-coast-healthcare-districtcandidates-forum-for-board-of-directors/

Logging to restart: https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/logging-to-restart-in-jackson-forest-assoon-as-this-week/?ref=recent

New Vision for Jackson: https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/nm2pdccu/jdsf-modernizationvision-8-18-22final.pdf

Timber harvest to resume: https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/1xaom4e5/jdsfoperations08242022.pdf

Save Jackson: www.savejackson.org/; their press release: https://savejackson.org/wp-content/uploads/ 2022/08/Save-Jackson-PR-8 25.pdf

EPIC: www.wildcalifornia.org/

Audubon Society presentation registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ tZckcu6qrjIuE9ZTvF6YFizCdbHNHpfrNc8f

Jackson Forest op-ed: https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/opinion/close-to-home-a-success-story-inforest-management/.

Bus service: mendocinotransit.org

LWVC voting information: https://my.lwv.org/california/leaders-update-archives/leaders-update-2022sept.

Ranked choice: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F3fGaN0p0OZkCTdZcEwdLx6mkZ2dy8Y6/view. LWVUS legal activity: https://www.lwv.org/legal-center-search

Vote-ER: salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=EHmDVGZi9jeMm0J/n8iZcU+cewXaHzup Democracy Truth Project: https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy/democracy-truth-project Youth registration: https://www.lwv.org/blog/lwv-hosts-900-high-school-community-college-registrationevents-ahead-midterms

Presidential election reform: https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voterswelcomes-bipartisan-action-presidential-electoral

DISCLOSE Act: salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=QZjwR150ZIjSVJn7Kst/ ka8gOxBGNG/D

Human right to vote briefing: https://www.hrsig.org/ files/ugd/ 1b370f 5bf53c25af8340da95c6b30238fad8cf.pdf; Human rRights Group website: www.hrsig.org