

Dear League Members,

Fundamental to all decisions made by the League of Women Voters is the position statements that you see in the Annual Meeting Kit every year. The League does not take a stand or position unless there is a study that has been done and a position written. Every year the members review one of the positions to bring them up to date and relevant in today's circumstances. Thank **Anne Hartline, Byrd Lochtie, and Becky Simpson** for two excellent meetings to review the Finance and Transportation positions and thank all members who attended and helped revise the position statements. It was a rewarding experience to review the position that the League takes on these important issues and know that the League is ready to use the studied positions to take a stand.

The Board voted to support History Day competition this year looking for students that match the League mission. See **Anne Hartline's** article in The VOTER. The Schools and Community First Initiative has received 1 million signatures for the revision and is well on the way to the 1.6 million signatures to improve the Initiative. A new study shows that the initiative will not hurt small businesses. Look at the article in The VOTER. If you haven't signed a petition yet please reach out to a Board member, **Mary Lou Lowry or Kathryn Donahue**, to put your signature on the revision. There are only a few days left.

Be sure to save your seat at this year's State of the County Luncheon, April 24 to hear our very own **Anne Hartline** talk about the history of the women's movement and the start of the League of Women Voter organization.

Deborah Downs, LWVHC President

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.

ANNUAL STATE of the COMMUNITY LUNCHEON is Friday, April 24th

The SOC luncheon is the League's primary fundraiser and a time of inspiration! Our Civic Contribution honoree this year will be Wanda Wahlund, an enthusiastic community volunteer who wears many hats. She contributes efforts to several organizations including Quota Club, the See's Community fund, and the Freshwater Grange.

We will also honor Viviana and Eric Hollenbeck and their Blue Ox Historic Village and School, with its unique combination of youth education, historic preservation, and old fashioned artisan-ship. In recent years the Blue Ox involved veterans in the design and creation of a replica of the hearse that carried Abraham Lincoln's remains from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Illinois. The replica was used in a procession reenacting that solemn journey.

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. See you there, April 24!

New League Members

Jennifer Jenkins

Karen Price

Beware of Fake News by **Dave Rosso, Board Member**

The 2020 national election is coming up Nov. 3 and there will be lots in print between now and then. So beware.

According to NPR, at the Schweinhaut Senior Center in suburban Maryland, about a dozen seniors gather around iPads and laptops, investigating a suspicious meme of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Plastered over her image, in big, white block letters, a caption reads: "California will receive 13 extra seats in Congress by including 10 million illegal aliens in the 2020 U.S. Census."

The seniors are participating in a workshop sponsored by the nonprofit Senior Planet called "How to Spot Fake News." As instructed, they pull up a reputable fact-checking site like Snopes or FactCheck.org and discover it is fake news.

Researchers say classes like this one should be more widely offered, especially with the 2020 election approaching.

According to NPR, recent studies suggest these classes could be increasingly important. Researchers at Princeton and New York universities found that Facebook users 65 and over posted seven times as many articles from fake news websites, compared with adults under 29.

"And that raises a lot of questions about what could be driving this relationship," Andrew Guess, an assistant professor of politics and public affairs at Princeton and a co-author of the study, told NPR.

Guess says there hasn't been a lot of research into this question yet, but it's likely digital literacy could have a lot to do with it. And he says that provides reason for optimism.

"People who are not digital natives didn't grow up online, having a sort of a natural relationship to using computers and the Internet," he says. "They are simply more susceptible to the kinds of online content that happened to be weaponized in that particular election. If it turns out this is the big part of the explanation, digital literacy is something that can be taught and it's a skill that can be developed."

At Stanford University, Susan Nash is one of the researchers who've been looking at why seniors may be more likely to struggle with fake news.

And since a recent study from the AARP finds tech use is climbing among older adults, Nash says it's important to tailor workshops to their specific needs. "We all know an informed democracy is the only way democracy works," she says. "And if we don't teach them how to evaluate what they're seeing, then we are poisoning our electorate."

At the Schweinhaut Senior Center, trainer Bre Clark coaches participants about the difference between propaganda, deep fakes and sponsored content. And she runs through a checklist for evaluating information online: Who wrote the information? What's the source of a claim? Does the author have an agenda?

Clark says her program, Senior Planet, which sponsors all kinds of tech classes for older adults at several locations across the country, has been trying to get digital literacy in front of more seniors.

Board Briefs from the February 11, 2020, LWVHC Board Meeting:

A new policy was discussed and approved:

The new policy states: "The League does not support candidates for public office. To maintain this independence, candidates for public office (new or incumbent) shall not speak at League functions. An exception to this policy shall be made for the State of the Community Luncheon when the Chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors will be invited to give the State of the County address, regardless of election cycle candidacy."

History Day Participation:

LWVHC will be participating once again in Humboldt County History Day. We have \$1500 budgeted for student awards and travel scholarships. **Byrd Lochtie** has agreed to help determine projects that will be awarded with \$25 gift certificates at History Day on February 29. She will approach several additional LWVHC members to join her. See the article in this VOTER about how YOU can be involved!

PROGRAM PLANNING- Finance position review

At the January 30 Program Planning meeting, the group discussed the five existing position statements in the "Local Government Financing" positions. We were able to reach consensus on three of the statements, but the group felt they needed more information to decide on the remaining two. Therefore, at the February 23 meeting, we will cover the remaining two "Local Government Financing" positions, as well as the Transportation Position statements. (See the summary from the February 23 meeting in this VOTER)

Budget Committee Report:

Treasurer **Nancy Kay** reported on the Budget Committee meeting. The Budget for 2020/2021 was discussed and minor amendments were approved by the Board. LWVHC members will vote on the budget at the Annual Meeting.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT

LWVHC cordially invites you to the 29th Annual State of the Community Luncheon to honor

Viviana & Eric Hollenbeck
The Blue Ox Historic Village and School

and

Wanda Wahlund
Community Volunteer

Master of Ceremonies – Deborah Downs, President
The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

State of the County Remarks, Estelle Fennel, Board Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Keynote Speaker – Anne Hartline, History Educator
The Struggle for Suffrage

Friday, April 24, 2020

11:30 Seating

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

Luncheon Committee

Judy Bennett, Chair

Kay Escarda

Nancy Frost

Debbe Hartridge

Deborah Downs

Nancy Kay

Lorey Keele

Julie Kelly

Byrd Lochtie

Carolyn Prescott

Judith Stoffer

Please detach and send with your check

My check is enclosed to support the 2020 State of the Community Luncheon:

- Checkboxes for contribution options: \$50 contribution, name in program, or contribution if unable to attend.

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 at LWVHC.org (707) 442-2729

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

*ALL tickets purchased online through PayPal will be \$65ea



The Blue Ox Historic Village and School, with its unique combination of youth education, historic preservation, and old fashioned artisanship, along with its founders Viviana and Eric Hollenbeck, will be honored with our Civic Contribution award at the State of the Community Luncheon, April 24, 2020 at the Adorni. The couple began a salvage logging business in the 1970s that evolved into a unique school and local icon, teaching Victorian craftsmanship to youth.

The Hollenbecks recently enlisted veterans in the construction of the "Lincoln Hearse", involving them in the creation of a meticulous replica that was featured in a re-enactment of the procession carrying the body of our 15th president from Washington D.C. to its final resting place in Illinois. Eric is a fervent believer in the power of creating with one's hands as a way to shape a person's sense of who they are. As someone who has himself lived with severe dyslexia that caused school to be a huge

struggle, he has tremendous empathy for the students who come to the Blue Ox with similar challenges and often with histories that include traumatic experiences. By building with wood, creating ceramics and letter-press printed items, and by running a radio station, these young people gain confidence and a sense of possibility. Eric and Viviana have frequent contact with former students. In fact, while **Byrd Lochtie** and I were visiting with them, a long-ago student phoned from out of state with an update on his life.

The Hollenbecks are a team with tremendous enthusiasm and vision for projects that will benefit the youth and veterans they hold dear. The campus of the Blue Ox sees hundreds of visitors from all over the country who are fascinated by the antique tools and creations and by Eric's stories. If you haven't visited the Blue Ox on one of their open house days, it is well worth your time.

Check the League website for specifics about the State of the Community Luncheon and plan to come, be inspired and support the League! We will feature **Wanda Wahlund**, community volunteer and additional honoree in next month's Voter.

Poll Workers

By *Judy Bennett, League Member*

At our recent budget committee meeting, we noticed the line item Poll Workers Contributions.

For the past few years Leaguers who work at the election polls have been donating their stipends to the League. This has become one of our fund-raising opportunities and the Budget Committee wanted it brought to the attention of the League membership that we are still doing this. In fact, we recommend that if you are a Poll Worker and give your stipend to the League, that you encourage your fellow Poll Workers to do the same, whether they are Leaguers or not. Many individuals work the Polls to aid the election process and not because of the money.

This is a painless way to Make Democracy work and help the League.

We thank you for your generosity and for giving of your time to make the election process better for everyone.

It's History Day Time Again!!!

Yay, it's an exciting time in Humboldt County because History Day is coming up! By the time you read this, Humboldt County History Day will have already taken place, but since League of Women Voters Humboldt County has been involved for several years, it seems appropriate for me to update members about what the event entails and what LWVHC does to support it.

History Day is an event for local students in grades 4 – 12 and it takes place at the local (county), state and national level. Every year the national organizers select a theme, and all student projects must strive to make strong connections to that theme. This year's theme is really powerful: "Breaking Barriers in History."

Participation in the event begins at school. Students choose a topic, conduct research, and then determine the way in which they can best present their research. These options include exhibits, performances, historical papers, websites, documentaries and posters (4th and 5th grade students only.) This year on February 29, over 400 students will converge at Humboldt State University to present their projects to judges comprised of professors, local teachers, college students and community members, including many local Leaguers. It's a busy, crazy, fun day that ends with an Award Ceremony in which up to 66 projects are awarded "Co-Champions". This means they may now continue on to competition at the state level in Rocklin, CA, in May.

At the Award Ceremony, in addition to Co-Champions being awarded, numerous community awards are also presented. This is another area in which LWVHC participates. League members are on hand during the competition to view projects and determine those that emphasize research on topics that align with our focus on voting and women's rights. The League will reward up to 10 students with \$25 gift certificates to local bookstores for their quality projects. These special awards are always met with smiles and great enthusiasm! It is so wonderful to be able to congratulate students on their hard work, even if their project has not been selected as a Co-Champion. It is also fantastic to have students, and their parents and teachers, see the many positive impacts the League has on our community. Later, LWVHC also joins the Humboldt County Office of Education and various community service groups to help fund travel for selected Co-Champions as they move on to competition at the state level. These scholarships are determined at a coaching session that will take place this year at Eureka High School on Tuesday, April 7th. Here's where there is still time for YOU to be involved! If you would like to join the small committee that will attend the April 7th coaching session and determine the project and students who will receive an LWVHC scholarship for the state competition, please contact me (**Anne Hartline**) at annehartline10@gmail.com.) I would be happy to fill you in on the details and welcome you to the History Day team. I guarantee you will be impressed with the quality of the projects and research being done by Humboldt County students!

Sincerely, **Anne Hartline**

FINE FORUM FOLKS FIND FAVOR

by Carol Masterson, Board Member

An outstanding team of democracy-doers has brought us nearer to one of our goals: an informed electorate. These people worked together to bring about three well-attended (in person and through TV) candidate forums for supervisor races in the March primary. One of these races will be decided in this election; the other may go on to a runoff in the fall, when we expect to organize forums for Assembly, Congress, and local city councils, as well as for school and service district boards.

Our thanks to the great production staff at KEET-TV for their professionalism. And thanks to Eureka Rotary for continuing to call on us for this duty, and for feeding us!

Here's a list of our dear and dedicated volunteers: **Judy Bennett, Sharolyn Hutton, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Becky Simpson, Diane Cipperley, Nancy Kay, Deborah Downs, Donna Clark, Julie Kelly, Jim Clark, Sylvia Shaw, Ed Olsgard, Byrd Lochtie, George Ojala, Shelley Holstein, Willa Mauro, Rudy Ramp, and Dave Rosso.**

My personal thanks, y'all! Couldn't do it without every last one of you!

LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

By Byrd Lochtie, Board Member

On Sunday afternoon, February 23rd, 15 League members gathered to work on our program planning for the year 2020-2021. First, we revisited the two position statements under Local Government Finance that we weren't able to agree on when we discussed them in January. After some more information emailed to us by Amy Nilsen (Humboldt County CAO) our discussion led to consensus on minor changes for these two position statements.

We then turned to our Transportation Position, and worked through all nine position statements, using a format designed by **Anne Hartline** that seemed to please everyone. We made only minor wording changes and reached consensus on all.

All these positions will now be presented to the League board in March for approval to go into the Annual Meeting Kit, and the total membership will have a chance to vote on our newly worded positions.

Finally, **Deborah Downs** presented a brief overview of the National Program that will be voted on at the LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC, in June. We agreed that we wanted to continue to support "Making Democracy Work" for our national program focus, including the issues of Redistricting, Voting Rights, Improving Elections, and Campaign Finance/Money in Politics. Our group wanted to be sure that abolishing the Electoral College was part of Improving Elections. Deborah will complete the online report, and will go to the Convention ready to vote on any issues that arise.

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

434 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502
www.lwvhc.org
info@lwvhc.org

2019-2020 BOARD

President.....Deborah Downs
Vice President.....Julie Kelly
Secretary.....Anne Hartline
Treasurer.....Nancy Kay
Program Director.....**VACANT**
Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
Social Policy Director.....**VACANT**
Government Director.....**VACANT**
Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
Forum Director.....Carol Masterson
Voter Service Director.....Maggie Augustine
Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
Webmaster/Social Media Chair.....**VACANT**
VOTER Editor.....Dave Rosso
Community Education DirectorNancy Kay
Communication Director.....**VACANT**
Traditional Media/Publicity Chair...Jessica Schlachter

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

_____ \$105 Family Membership
(2 in same household)

_____ 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!

LWV of HUMBOLDT COUNTY

THE VOTER

P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

LWVHC Calendar **tentative topics*

Board Meeting	Tuesday, 3/10/2020 530pm @ A1AA
Membership Meeting Transportation Position*	Thursday, 3/19/2020 530pm @ A1AA
Board Meeting	Tuesday, 4/14/2020 530pm @ A1AA
State of Community Luncheon	Friday, 4/24/2020 at Noon @ Adorni Center, Eureka
Board Meeting	Tuesday, 5/12/2020 530pm @ A1AA
Annual Meeting	Thursday, 5/28/2020 Date & Time TBA

New League Member Profile

Charmin Bailey moved to beautiful Northern California in 2009. She is a passionate mother to six amazing children and one grandchild ranging in age from two years to 25 years old. Currently, she works full-time as Housing Director for a small federally recognized tribe since 2014. She has been actively continuing her education at Ashford University for her bachelor's degree in business management with expected graduation 2022. Her ultimate life goal of receiving a doctorate in organizational leadership. In her spare time since 2011, she is devoted to give back to her community by volunteering as a First Responder/Firefighter for the local fire department. Her interest in joining the League of Women Voters is just one more way of interacting with the community she lives in.