

President's Message

Dear LWVHC Members,

The February board meeting was very productive. We now have a newly drafted and approved Governance Committee description and reviewed the Non-Partisan policy. **Sharolyn Hutton** reported on AB544, the inmate's right to vote bill. At the February 15 membership meeting, Correction Captain Duane Christian of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office shared that our local facility makes provisions for inmates to vote and explained how the process works. Thanks to **Sylvia Shaw** and her team for the work they did on our local incarceration facilities position and arranging for the captain's zoom visit with the board. The revisions made to the position statement will be voted on at our March 4 Board Meeting.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, March 4 because a number of Board members are serving as poll workers on our usual meeting date of the first Tuesday of the month. Please note that we will be having a hybrid meeting and all are invited to attend in person at a different meeting place: **the Chamber office-612 G Street, Suite 101 in Eureka.**

The next membership meeting will be on Thursday, March 21.

Based on the information **Maggie Fleming** provided, the board voted to join the Eureka Chamber of Commerce and will use its meeting room for hybrid board meetings when they are needed.

The board supported participating in Sunshine Week and also Talk Humboldt, a radio talk show with the presidents of College of the Redwoods and Cal-Poly Humboldt. **Jessica Schlachter** and **Byrd Lochtie** will represent the League on Talk Humboldt.

March will be a busy month for our League. Reports will need to be written and readied for the Annual Meeting Kit (AMK) by March 30, as will the proposed budget. We thank **Judy Bennett** for the work she did as Governance



Director. Due to her resignation from the board, we will be searching for a new Governance Director. Many thanks to all of you who have helped with all the areas concerning the March 5 Primary Election!

Kudos and thanks to **Dr. Karen Price, Byrd Lochtie, Anne Hartline, and Molly Cate** for their work on the collaboration with the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission and the LWVHC Free Speech vs. Hate Speech Public Education Forum on Feb. 21. (pictured above)

See you at our Thursday, March 21 Membership Meeting!

Sharolyn L. Hutton
LWVHC Co-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.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

The LWWHC cordially invites you to the 31st Annual State of the Community Event

The League of Women Voters will be honoring:

JEFF LAMOREE AND THE SEQUOIA PARK ZOO FOUNDATION

Community Volunteer

and

LORI DENGLER

Emeritus Professor of Geology Cal Poly Humboldt

Master of Ceremonies – Maggie Fleming

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

Keynote Speaker – Jennifer Savage, Surfrider Foundation Senior Manager

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

Friday, April 19, 2024

11:30 Doors open - Buffet service begins

12:00 – 1:30 Program

Adorni Center

For further information contact

Judy Bennett

(707) 845-2215

Maggie Fleming, Chair

Judy Bennett

Kay Escarda

Debbie Hartman

Debbe Hartridge

Lorey Keele

Byrd Lochtie

Carolyn Prescott

Valerie Simons

Connie Smith

Judith Stoffer

My check is enclosed to support the 2024 State of the Community Luncheon:

I wish to support The League of Women Voters and have my name printed in the program. Please reserve _____ ticket(s) at \$75 per person.

I am unable to attend the luncheon, but I wish to support The League of Women Voters with a contribution of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Payment must be received in advance.

**Please make checks payable to
The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County
82 Steele Lane, Eureka, CA 95503**

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

State of the Community Luncheon Coming on Friday, April 19

One of our Civic Contribution Awards this year will be presented to Jeff Lamoree and the Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation.

Like many of Humboldt County's unique amenities and wonderful institutions, the Zoo as we know it today exists due to the inspiration and efforts of people who saw a need and took action. In the case of the Zoo, Jeff Lamoree, Founding President of the Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation in 2003, was one of those visionary people. After Jeff retired, he came to believe that the Zoo he had taken his children to for many years could be a better place, so he set about creating a Foundation that would bring financial stability and increase community education.

The Zoo that I grew up with and loved in the 1960s has been gradually transformed, through the efforts of the Foundation, to be a better place for the animals and the public. Animals exhibited, such as the popular otters, are carefully selected to fit with the zoo's small size, and our local climate as well as the scientific value they bring. The Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, adhering to strict standards attempted by only ten percent of "animal exhibitors" in the country according to the AZA's website.

The Zoo is the oldest in the state, opening in 1907. Since the first years of the Foundation's fundraising efforts in the early 2000s, paid membership numbers have risen from 310 to 3500, supporting the stated goal of the Zoo: to foster "conservation of the natural world by instilling wonder, respect and passion for wildlife."



Jeff is pictured here with Alegria Sita, the Foundation's current Executive Director, shown in the Ecos Café at the Zoo.

Education is a major focus of the Zoo, which sponsors frequent talks by naturalists. Scheduled talks in 2024 will feature information about marbled murrelets, whales, and butterflies. The talks can be accessed via Zoom. For more information about the talks and the zoo, check the Zoo's website: <https://www.redwoodzoo.org>.

Of course the big news at the Zoo of late has been the Skywalk, which opened in 2021 and takes people along a 100 foot high walkway through towering redwoods. The Skywalk has been featured in national publications. Besides leading transformative efforts for the Zoo, Jeff has served numerous community organizations including the Humboldt Area Foundation, Humboldt County Office of Education, Humboldt County Behavioral Health, St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, Six Rivers Planned Parenthood, and others, with his efforts often focusing on health.

The State of the Community Luncheon will be held at the Adorni on April 19 this spring. It's the LWVHC's major fundraiser. Our keynote speaker this year will be Jennifer Savage of the Surfrider Foundation. The cost is \$75. See our website for information about purchasing tickets. Hope to see you there! (Information about our other Civic Contribution Awardee, Lori Dengler, appeared in last month's VOTER)

Debbe Hartridge
LWVHC State of the Community Luncheon Member

Good Governance

Last year your League Board appointed a Governance Committee in an effort to provide the best governing board possible for our organization. The current members are **Judy Bennett, Sylvia Shaw, Michelle Vassel, Bonnie Oliver, and Byrd Lochtie**. The committee has met to develop a complete job description for such a committee, which we are printing here for your information. If you are interested in any of the responsibilities of this committee, please let one of the members know.

Governance Committee Job Description

Purpose:

To ensure good governance practices and documents for the LWVHC Board of Directors

Support from LWVHC Board:

Appoint members and chair

Provide budget line item

Membership:

One LWVHC board member from Nominating Committee

LWVHC Secretary

Three non-officer LWVHC board members

Duties:

- Annually review, and recommend any changes for, the Bylaws (and Articles). Secure LWVHC approval before sending changes to the board and membership. Review and maintain a Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Ensure good Orientation for all new board members, including possible mentorships.
- Recommend and help plan a summer get-acquainted retreat in addition to a planning session for each year.
- Prepare, maintain, and distribute a Board Manual or Handbook, recommending changes to the LWVHC Board.
- Review job descriptions, working with drafts from those in the positions.
- Conduct periodic confidential evaluations of the board and individual board members. This could include exit interviews of those leaving the Board.
- Work with the Nominating Committee as requested and/or needed. This could include training, recruitment strategies, and evaluations of serving board members.

Voting Information for the 2024 California Primary Elections

Key Dates:

Deadline to return vote-by-mail ballots:

Postmarked by Tuesday, March 5

Received by Tuesday, March 12

Early Voting:

Monday, February 5 to Monday, March 4

Primary Election:

Tuesday, March 5,

Polls open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Membership Opportunity!

Join the conversation on Thursday, March 21 starting at 6:30 as LWVHC members come together on Zoom to review our position on the county's juvenile detention facilities. Coral Sanders, Chief Probation Officer will be our guest speaker. She will be available for and invites questions.

Program Committee members toured the Juvenile Detention Facilities with Ms. Sanders, conducted interviews with Ms. Maggie Fleming, Ms. Sanders, Ms. Dayna Wilcox and studied the 2022-2023 Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury Final Report Summary. With that background, we suggested the following updates to our existing juvenile position for your review and discussion.

Juvenile Detention Facilities and Programs in Humboldt County – 1978, 1984, 2006, 2016

Position Summary: Support use of up-to-date juvenile detention facilities, provided revisions and renovations occur as required by law; , alternative programs for juvenile misdemeanants-offenders; , and probation department programs for foster and crisis homes.

Position In Brief:–Position:

- 1. Facilities for mentally disturbed children should be provided; as well as flexible funding for the facility and its programs.–Support flexible funding for facilities and staffing providing youth behavioral/mental health.**
- 2. Improve Support facilities for recreation and counseling programs and facilities within the juvenile hall.**
- 3. Continue Support the establishment of treatment for substance abuse disorder/detox programs for juvenile offenders. or children in the county especially self-supporting aspect.**
- 4. Encourage Support a media informational programs dealing with Probation Department's foster and crisis homes and support community members who take in delinquent youth.–presence to increase public awareness and knowledge about programs with Probation Department's family resource families and crisis homes. Provide support for community members who are caring for delinquent youth.**
- 5. Encourage pretrial and post trial alternatives.–Support and fund diversion and other alternative programs encouraging cultural and ethnic support and parent involvement.**
- 6. Encourage mediation/arbitration programs as a diversion from the court system for misdemeanants only.**
- 7. Support restitution when applicable.**
- 8. Maintain Support adequate fiscal support for all alternative programs and juvenile detention facilities. educational programs and opportunities within the juvenile detention facilities and community such as including flexible staffing.**
- 9. Encourage Probation Department to continue its diversion program and its support of community-based diversion options, valuable services to juveniles in the system.**
- 10. Support the continued use of science-based risk assessment tools.**
- 11. Encourage Probation Department to continue its diversion program and its support of community based diversion options, valuable services to juveniles in system.**

Cindy Humphry, Sylvia Shaw, and Peggy Syvertson LWVHC Social Policy Co-Directors

Let's Get Ready for the May Marathon

This is advance notice that the Avenue of the Giants Marathon is Sunday, May 5, this year. I'm starting early to line up workers to staff our Aid Station because it's been a little erratic since COVID changed the schedules all around. Here's some information to remind those who have worked before or those who would like to join us for the first time.

League members arrive at our station between Weott and Meyers Flat about 8 a.m. to set up the station. The materials are delivered and waiting for us. We stir up the Gatorade mixture, fill cups with the Gatorade or water and keep them full as about 2,000 runners pass by. We are near the turnaround so we actually see them TWICE! We also have a first aid kit but rarely have to use it. It's also part of our job to shout words of encouragement!

It's fun, it gets you out in the redwoods early in the year, and we get a lot of good feedback of appreciation from the runners. We are able to increase our League coffers between \$400 and \$600 each year. Car-pooling is encouraged. We stole the tailgating idea and bring good stuff to share.

We usually are through by around 2 p.m. at the latest.

PLEASE, email or give me a call for details and to volunteer. Its fine to bring youths along (no little ones – they get run over!) and/or friends who want to share the experience. Thanks for helping me out, as well as the runners and walkers, this first Sunday in May.

Kay Escarda, 707-442-7495, 707-672-2098 or kay.escarda@gmail.com

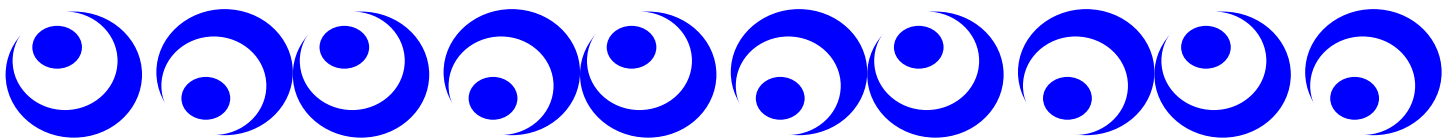


Information on California's Judicial System

Many do not understand our judicial system, so some diligent members of the Santa Clara County Leagues decided to put together a great resource to answer many questions. Attached is Santa Clara County LWV's FAQ regarding judges: How the judicial system is organized in California and how are judges/justices appointed or elected in California. Particular thanks to the "writing team": Eleanor Yick, Tracey Edwards, and Karin Bricker.

Feel free to share with others or post on your website.

file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/Judicial%20Review%20FAQs%20Final%20Jan%202028%202024_-1.pdf





RECRUITING LEAGUE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD BEGINNING JULY 2024

League members are passionate about the work we all do. The League's Board of Directors needs you, now more than ever before, to help with our efforts to empower voters, defend democracy, and create a more equitable future for all!

Members with diverse backgrounds, experiences, abilities and perspectives are encouraged to apply. You can apply yourself, or nominate another leader to serve on the LWVHC Board of Directors by emailing Lorey Keele or calling (707) 498-9975 by January 1, 2024.

We encourage you to think about the leadership role you could play in making democracy work as we anticipate how the League will impact our community and our country now and in the the future.

Another Successful Forum Season!

Thanks to our intrepid LWVHC volunteers and the generosity and professionalism of KEET-TV, we just concluded what I consider to be a successful Primary Election Voter Service season!

In anticipation of the CA Primary Election on March 5, LWVHC facilitated three candidate forums on KEET-TV in February for the three Humboldt County Supervisorial races on the March ballot: Districts 1, 2, and 3. In each case, all candidates on the ballot attended their respective forums, though we did have to do a bit of last minute adjusting due to candidate illness.

This certainly could not have happened without the cheerful and expert assistance of our LWVHC volunteers. Some of them assisted in multiple forums, and a number of League volunteers took on new roles for the first time. So, big thanks go out to: **Patricia-Anne WinterSun, George WinterSun, Janet Foos, Elaine Weinreb, Kathy Johanson, Peggy Syvertson, Byrd Lochtie, Kay Escarda, Kathy Polifroni, Maggie Fleming, Debbe Hartridge, and Sylvia Shaw.**

Special kudos to **Patricia-Anne WinterSun** who volunteered at all three forums, and to **Julie Kelly**, who moderated for the first time on KEET-TV. Yay!

Now we take a breather until the fall, when we'll be gearing back up for the General Election in November. Stay tuned for the call for volunteers for what promises to be an even busier election season!

Anne Hartline and Julie Kelly
LWVHC Voter Service Co-Chairs

P.S. I (Anne) was lucky enough to get to go into classrooms to register voters at Arcata High, McKinleyville High, and Six Rivers Charter, and I turned in 67 completed voter registration forms to our Humboldt County Elections Office – all for young people who will turn 18 on or before the November General Election! I consider that time well spent!

League of Women Voters of Humboldt County 2023-2024 Calendar

2024

MARCH

Monday 3/4 5:30 Board meeting

Thursday, 3/21 6:30 Program (Local) meeting

APRIL

Tuesday, 4/2 5:30 Board meeting

Friday, 4/19 11:30 SOCL

MAY

Tuesday, 5/7 5:30 Board meeting

Thursday, 5/30 5:30 Annual Meeting

JUNE

Tuesday, 6/4 5:30 Board meeting



Jessica Schlachter and Sharolyn Hutton, LWVHC Co-Presidents presenting donation with staff and children at the Boys and Girls Club

L-R: Alex Stillman, Dan and Jessica Schlachter and Peggy Syvertson at Pints for Non-profits LWVHC Fundraiser

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

_____ \$115 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 _____



The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

627 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502
www.lwvhc.org
leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org

(707) 444-9252

Who's Who in Your 2023-2024 League Board

- Co-Presidents.....Sharolyn Hutton,
.....Jessica Schlachter
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Maggie Fleming
- Treasurer.....Michelle Vassel
- Program Director.....Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Director.....Sylvia Shaw
- Government Director.....Vacant
- Fairs Director.....Becky Simpson
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Director.....Anne Hartline
- Voter Service Co-Directors.....Anne Hartline
.....and Julie Kelly
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Editor.....Leslie Leach
- Community Education Director.....Karen Price
- Communications Director.....Vacant
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Director.....Cindy Humphry
- Director.....Bonnie Oliver
- Director.....Peggy Syvertson





P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

Get Involved!

We all have unique skills to contribute and limited time. Working together we become a viable force for change. Call or email today to say you want to participate. Visit www.lwvhc.org or call (707) 444-9252.

Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity

LWVHC Calendar

Monday, March 4 Board Meeting
5:30 p.m. Zoom or (see below)
<https://zoom.us/j/93228029132?pwd=bG93U05wd056Z3gxQ012TDYvNlA1UT09>

In-person
Chamber office-612 G
Street, Suite 101
Eureka.

Thursday, March 21 Membership Meeting
6:30 p.m. Zoom

LWVHC Webpage Any Time!

LWVHC X Any Time!

LWVHC Instagram Any Time!