

## *President's Message*

### **Looking Back, While Moving Forward**

While thinking about the past few years in League, the word adjustment keeps popping up. Because of COVID, we have made adjustments in our lives, in our use of technology, and with the League.

Though COVID seemingly brought everything to a halt, LWVHC kept working and making adjustments. We moved our entire office to storage in The Ink People building where our rent is less than half of what we had been paying. Money was a huge issue because we could no longer have our State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL) fundraiser.

Not only could we not have an in-person SOCL, but also we could not hold our Annual Meetings and Membership Brunches in person.

We then discovered ZOOM and have been learning how to effectively hold meetings via ZOOM. Also because of our concerns about cost and our desire to do all that we could for the environment, we adjusted to online VOTERS and Annual Meeting Kits (AMK). People who wanted theirs mailed to them paid for that. We hope to have the Citizen's Guide to County Government online soon. We also liked having our board meetings on ZOOM and plan to continue doing that.

Sadly, we have had to adjust to the loss of five board members for various reasons this year.

Last year we held a "hybrid" SOCL. This year with the passionate leadership of **Judy Bennett**, the SOCL committee is hosting a buffet luncheon, another adjustment from the sit-down lunches of the past. As I write this, it appears there will be about 300 attendees, which is wonderful.

In 2021, LWVCA held its biennial convention on Zoom, and it was one of the best attended ever. This year it is in San Francisco and is in person. Since the arrangements were made in 2019, it is not possible to

hold it on Zoom. Co-president **Jessica Schlachter**, Treasurer **Michelle Vassal**, and Natural Resources Director **Leslie Leach** will be our delegates. Money did not stretch to pay for the two other delegates to which we are entitled.

Last year Jessica and I attended the hybrid LWV convention in Denver. It was a huge adjustment! Having a national convention via Zoom and in-person was a challenge, particularly when issues were raised and voting had to occur. President **Deborah Turner** worked hard to be sure everyone's voice could be heard whether they were in the hall or online. All voting on issues was done with an online program that required a cell phone. Most of us had never heard of nor used this program prior to the convention.

In spite of the confusion, delegates were able to accomplish the League's work. Jessica and I voted with the minority on doing away with the age restriction for membership but voted with the majority for the proposed Transformational Action. (I hope each of you completed the survey on that!) This action, if it comes to fruition, is aimed at making membership possible for more people by lowering the cost of membership. The goal is to increase membership and engage younger people in our mission of ensuring voting rights.

This year we are happy to invite you to our Annual Meeting on May 25. It will be in-person and on Zoom. Be on the look-out for your emailed AMK and plan to attend!

As I close, I want to thank all of you who tirelessly give of your time and energy as volunteers with the League and with other organizations. Thank you!

**Sharolyn Hutton**  
*LWVHC Co-President*

**PLEASE JOIN US !**

**LWVHC ANNUAL MEETING 2023**

**THURSDAY, MAY 25**

**SEQUOIA CONFERENCE CENTER, ROOM A**

**6:00 p.m. REGISTRATION**

**6:30 p.m. DINNER \$20**

**7:00 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING (NO CHARGE)**

**ZOOM is also available for those who cannot attend**

**PLEASE RESERVE BY MAY 15, 2023**

**A reservation made is a reservation paid. For those attending only the business meeting, there will be no charge, but please reserve for a quorum count!**

**For more information call Becky Simpson at (707) 498-6340  
or email [simpson2.rebecca@gmail.com](mailto:simpson2.rebecca@gmail.com)**

**Please pay by check to:  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY  
P. O. BOX 3219  
EUREKA, CA. 95502**

**The League needs YOU!**

**Be sure to join the Annual Meeting in  
person or by ZOOM**

## *A Wonderful State of the Community Luncheon*

This year's April 21 SOCL, held at the Adorni Center, was an all-around success! The speakers were interesting, the awardees inspiring, and the crowd was large and enthusiastic. Over 300 tickets were sold, and the funds raised will ensure support for the League's mission and activities throughout the year. The planning committee, under the able and tenacious leadership of **Judy Bennet**, dealt with challenges both physical and in cyberspace while planning for a big celebration after a two-year hiatus.

**Maggie Fleming**, our MC, kept the event moving forward on time, and **Byrd Lochtie** ably introduced the awardees (Jim Glover and the Humboldt County Children's Author Festival). Committee members organized the Steering Committee (which is a key factor in our fundraising success), created festive decorations, produced printed materials, made logistical arrangements, connected with our caterer, and worked with our speakers, Yurok Tribal Chair Joseph James and Supervisor Steve Madrone. **Kay Escarda**, **Judy Stoffer**, **Nancy Frost**, **Lori Keele**, **Carolyn Prescott**, **Debbe Hartridge**, and **Debbie Hartman** made up this energetic group. If you enjoy and appreciate this event, think about joining the planning committee next year!



Joseph James, Yurok Tribal Chair and **Maggie Fleming**, SOCL MC



Some of the SOCL Committee Members l-r: **Maggie Fleming**, **Debbe Hartridge**, **Nancy Frost**, **Carolyn Prescott**, and **Kay Escarda**



Other members of the SOCL Committee seated l-r: Chair, **Judy Bennett**, **Maggie Fleming**, **Kay Escarda**, and **Byrd Lochtie**  
Standing l-r: **Lorey Keele** and **Nancy Frost**

Members of the SOCL not pictured are **Debbie Hartman** and **Judie Stoffer**



## *Another Beautiful Day on the Avenue of the Giants*

I still need a few more **VOLUNTEERS** for the **Avenue of the Giants Marathon Aid Station** on **Sunday, May 7.**

If you can help us out, please call or email **Kay Escarda** for details.  
707-442-7495 [kay.escarda@gail.com](mailto:kay.escarda@gail.com)

Friends and family are more than welcome to help as well.



## *National Efforts Promoting Dignity and Respect*

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has been promoting White Ribbon VA – a national call to action to eliminate sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence across the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA is promoting a positive change in culture so the action outlined in their recommended pledge will become the organizational norm.

In 2021, Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough led hundreds of employees in a pledge against domestic violence and sexual harassment and assault, vowing to never “commit, excuse, or stay silent” about the behavior. The pledge was part of the White Ribbon campaign.

Go to the following website for more information: [www.va.gov/stop-harassment/policy/](http://www.va.gov/stop-harassment/policy/)

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County recently reviewed the League’s Funding for Victims of Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse position from 2014.

On February 9, the League reviewed and discussed this position to update it. The guest presenters were Emely Velez, director of Humboldt Domestic Violence Services, and Ashley Shively, co-director of Adult Protective Services, Humboldt County. The updated position wording, arrived at by consensus at the meeting, will be presented to the full membership at the Annual Meeting on May 25, 2023. If the updated position is approved it will replace the 2014 position, and it will then be available to use in our advocacy. Be sure to attend the Annual Meeting to voice your opinion and vote on this important and timely topic.

If we think our new position, if adopted in May, speaks to the work of the White Ribbon VA, and the issue comes up in Humboldt County, then the League can use our position to advocate for it.

**Dave Rosso**  
*LWVHC VOTER Co-Editor*

## *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.

## **Welcome New Members**

***Peggy Falk***  
***Sandra Little***  
***Valerie Simons***

## *Community Election Service*

Once again on April 1st the League monitored the Wiyot Tribal Election at their Community Center on Table Bluff. This year the Wiyot Tribe had arranged for voting machines that included a special ADA machine, although it was not used. **Tabitha Lehman** (a **Leaguer** from Kansas) was there to help with any questions about the machines. We verified that the count was zero when the polls opened, and at the end of the election, we closed the polls. The machine count was available after closing the polls but we did not look at it until we counted all the ballots by hand. **Our totals agreed!** This was an excellent example of the validity of paper ballots counted in a machine.

During slow times in the election we had a chance to talk with Tabitha about the many difficulties encountered by election volunteers in various parts of this country. She told us about violence threatened to election workers and their families; she has heard many stories about threats as she travels the country with her voting machines. We in Humboldt County seem to be pretty lucky because I have not heard about this kind of intimidation here.

I am always so grateful when Leaguers answer my call for volunteers so quickly.

This year I had a full crew and two alternates in less than two hours! Thank you to **Molly Cate, Nan Nieboer, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Willa Mauro, Janine Randall, Kay Escarda, and Joan Williams** for your willingness to work on a Saturday. It is such a pleasure to work with willing League volunteers!

Thank you also to **Juan Pablo Cervantes** and the Election Department for allowing us the use of three voting booths at no charge. Tribal members seem to appreciate the privacy of the voting booths.

I always appreciate the chance to work with the Wiyot Tribe. Fawn Lopez does an excellent job of setting up the ballots and other materials for the election. They even provide us with delicious snacks during the day! We thank them for trusting the League to work with them on their elections.

**Byrd Lochtie**

*LWVHC Election Service Director*



*Patricia-Anne WinterSun and Willa Mauro*



*Joan Williams, Tabitha Lehman, and Nan Nieboer*

### **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.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$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](http://www.lwvhc.org)  
[leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org](mailto:leaguehumboldt@lwvhc.org)

(707) 444-9252

#### **Who's Who in Your 2022-2023 League Board**

- Co-Presidents..... Sharolyn Hutton/  
Jessica Schlachter
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Vacant
- Treasurer.....Michelle Vassel
- Program Director..... Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Directors.....Molly Cate/  
Sylvia Shaw
- Government Director.....Karen Price
- Fairs Director.....Becky Simpson
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Directors..... Vacant
- Voter Service Director.....Vacant
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Co-Editors....Dave Rosso/Leslie Leach
- Community Education Directors.....Karen Price
- Communications Director.....Vacant
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter





P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

## ***Get Involved!***

We all have a unique set of skills to contribute and limited time to afford. Working together we become a viable force for change. Call or email today to say you want to participate.

Visit [www.lwvhc.org](http://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***

Tuesday, May 2 6:30 p.m.	LWVHC Board Meeting Zoom
Thursday, May 25 6 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00	Annual Meeting Registration Dinner Meeting In-person or by Zoom
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
LWCHC Instagram	Any Time!