

### *President's Message*

Hello League Members!

“April showers, bring May flowers,” and in the case of LWVHC, **May will bring our Annual Meeting on the 19th on zoom at 6:30 p.m!** By the time you read this, you will have received your Annual Meeting Kit (AMK) either as a hard copy or online, thanks to **Carolyn Otis** and **Becky Simpson**. Please take the time to read it before the meeting, paying close attention to the position statements. The AMK contains our budget, slate of officers, possible positions to review next year, and this year's edited positions on Land Use, the Library, and Housing. Thanks to **Lorey Keele** for her work on the publication of the AMK and her urging us to get it done and to you by the deadline. She worked with your board to gather the information and put it into what we hope will be an easier to read format for our edited positions. This was a very time-consuming process and thanks are due to all who helped, including **Molly Cate**, **Leslie Leach**, and **Jessica Schlachter**.

May will also see the return of our KEET Candidate Forums under the direction of **Anne Hartline**, **Ann Diehl**, and **Nancy Kay**. Stay tuned for more on these.

As we say good-bye to April, I want to remind everyone of all that LWVHC did in this month. With the leadership of **Byrd Lochtie**, several of us worked on two Wiyot elections; **Judy Bennett** and the SOCL committee finalized plans for and held a hybrid State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL); **Maggie Augustine** and **Joan Williams** registered voters; **Jessica Schlachter** and **Karen Price** represented the League by participating in the Perilous Plunge; and **Kay Escarda** and I were interviewed by James Faulk on KEET and were able to talk about the SOCL and our League's many activities. As I keep saying, our League is very busy.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 19th!

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

### *Behavioral Health Services Study Update*

Our League study committee on behavioral health services has not met since my last report in the April VOTER, so nothing to report there except the exciting news that you are welcome to join us for our future meetings. We meet the third Wednesday of the month from 6-7 pm using the same Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83789562688?pwd=K1FsNW52MG5HVzV2em9NQ1p3S09BUT09>

When you receive this issue, Dr. Ruby Bayan of Waterfront Recovery in Eureka will just have been our guest speaker on Wednesday, April 20, talking about dual diagnoses, so you can expect a report on that in the next VOTER.

One more exciting event that will just have happened when you read this: Dr. Tom Insel, psychiatrist and neuroscientist, a national leader in behavioral health research, policy, and technology and a former Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, will just have been the guest speaker on April 28 at a free, online presentation sponsored by National NAMI called “Ask the Expert - People, Place and Purpose: A Vision for the Failing Mental Health System.” His new book, *Healing: Our Path from Mental Illness to Mental Health*, is sweeping the nation and will, hopefully be a game-changer. His book and the presentation for NAMI are definitely well-timed to be helpful for our study. More about that next month too.

**Molly Cate**  
*LWVHC Program Director*

### *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.

## ***Letter from the President of the League of Women Voters, California***

A salute to all the League members who so diligently and patiently followed the twists and turns of redistricting in their local jurisdictions! League members up and down the state spent hours upon hours monitoring the redistricting process in their areas, offering comments to redistricting bodies, and working in coalition with other groups to encourage adherence to the Fair MAPS Act. This was an arduous process to follow involving late nights and many, many meetings. The LWVC thanks you all for undertaking this historic and vital part of making democracy work.

A salute also to Chris Carson and Helen Hutchison who represented the LWVC singly and in coalition with other good government groups in monitoring the second ever California Citizens Redistricting Commission. Helen and Chris offered public comment and written advice to the Commission throughout the process. The LWVC worked hard to bring the Commission into existence and wants to make sure that it continues to create legislative districts that represent the people that live within them. The LWVC has plans to preserve and perpetuate this important legacy for the future through research and writing academic papers on both levels of redistricting.

The legislative session is underway so the LWVC is at the Capitol (speaking figuratively) cosponsoring the Racial Justice for All Act and an important bill that will prevent overly aggressive voter roll purges. The League is also supporting legislation to help protect election workers and to require disclosures about digital political campaigns. The latter bill was proposed by the Fair Political Practices Commission as a result of the work of a task force that League members Jennifer Waggoner and Katie Zoglin were members of. Plus the LWVC is working to get voter education funded in the current budget and to reform recall elections. [Read all about it here.](#)

Speaking of advocacy, please remember that the League speaks with one voice when it comes to communications about legislation. Take a look at the [Speaking with One Voice policy](#). If a piece of legislation is of interest to a particular League and or has direct impact on the League's location, please consult with the LWVC before any communication, whether that is submitting testimony, responding to a reporter's questions or sending a letter to the editor. Please use the [Action Request Form](#) that is found in the Program and Advocacy section of the [MyLO Members Only](#) site. The League is stronger and more influential when speaking as one.

The June Primary Election is bearing down upon us. The LWVC has toolkits and guidance for your use, along with products like the *Easy Voter Guide* and Voter's Edge to help your League with voter service work. Please [click here for a summary](#) of what is available.

The [LWVUS Convention \(June 23- 26, 2022\)](#) registration is open and will remain open until June 6. The number of delegates a League may send to the convention is based on the number of members the League reported in January, 2021. Click [here for a spreadsheet](#) that tells you of the number of delegates your League may send. Please be aware that the number of members on this spreadsheet is based on preliminary figures. They are probably accurate, but rest assured the spreadsheet will be updated when we receive final numbers.

The Nominating Committee is open for business! Please consider your fellow League members for possible nominations to the LWVC Board of Directors. Make [suggestions](#) of people to guide the LWVC into the future.

In closing I'd like to leave you with this. All across the country Leagues are involved in litigation and battles over voting rights, elections, and redistricting. Californians are so fortunate not to be suffering that political angst. Yes, there are issues with threats to elections officials, suspicion of voter fraud, and some attempts to purge voter rolls. But these are not issues that are insurmountable. California built an elections system that made the transition to vote by mail ballots for all possible and a process for successful redistricting by independent commissions. With vigilance and openness to continual improvements in the ways Californians participate in our government this state will continue to be an example for the rest of the country. Let us remember and value the work of League members and their allies that created the stable elections and redistricting process we now enjoy. Let us lead by example that other states can emulate.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

***Carol Moon Goldberg***  
***League of Women Voters California President***

## ***Candidate Forums on KEET Scheduled***

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County has scheduled candidate forums for the upcoming June 7 primary election. Forums for contested positions will be broadcast live at 7:00 pm on KEET on the following dates:

Monday, May, 9: Auditor-Controller  
Wednesday, May 11: Supervisor, District 4  
Monday, May 16: Supervisor, District 5  
Wednesday, May 18: District Attorney  
Monday, May 23, Recorder-County Clerk/ Registrar of Voters  
Wednesday, May 25: Arcata City Council  
Wednesday, June 1: Superior Court Judge

Forums with only two candidates will be canceled if one candidate is unable or unwilling to participate.

Questions for candidates may be submitted beforehand to **Ann Diehl** at [amndiehl3326@gmail.com](mailto:amndiehl3326@gmail.com). During the forums themselves, you may call in questions to phone numbers that will be provided on the program.

League volunteers are needed for these jobs: Question Sorters (1 per night), Timer (1 per night), Runner (1 per night), Phone Answerers (3 per night), and an experienced Floor Manager (1 per night). That is many people, and we hope that members will step up to help. All forums will last one hour, with the exception of the Arcata City Council, which will take 1 1/2 hours. Please contact **Rebecca Simpson** at [simpson2.rebecca@gmail.com](mailto:simpson2.rebecca@gmail.com) to volunteer for one or more nights.

Mark your calendars for the Forum nights. We look forward to hearing your questions, and we encourage everyone to watch the forums before voting!

**Ann Diehl**  
*LWVHC Interim Forum Director*

## ***Voter's Edge: Getting Ready for the June Primary***

Work on the Voter's Edge for the June primary is in progress. The basic data for the candidates and measures J, the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program Renewal and K, the Humboldt County Hotel Tax Update, has been entered into the database. The information covers both the Humboldt County and the Arcata City Council ballots. Invitations for candidate participation in Voter's Edge have been sent. As soon as the candidates have entered their data, the LWVHC membership will be notified. So be on the lookout for more Voter's Edge information.

**Maggie Augustine**  
*LWVHC Voter Registration Director*



**Save the Date!**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday,**  
**May 19**  
**At 6:30 p.m.**  
**on Zoom**

## *Our Work with Tribal Elections*

It has been a very busy election season for both Bear River and Wiyot tribes! We found ourselves doing more actual work and less “consulting” because of some glitches with the Bear River Election Committee. I really appreciate all the wonderful Leaguers who stepped up whenever I called for help. And because Wiyot had a regular election AND a recall election, we needed two crews for counting ballots, one while I was out of town.

A big thank you to these workers for preparing Bear River mailings: **Joan Williams, Kay Escarda, Maggie Augustine, Leslie Leach, Janine Randall, Judy Bennett, Jessica Schlachter, Karen Price,** and Bear River employees **Brittany Gonzalez** and **Karla Ramirez**. Bear River Election Committee members **Derek Bowman, Andy Ashley,** and **Hank Brenard**, who are also League members, helped with the first mailing.

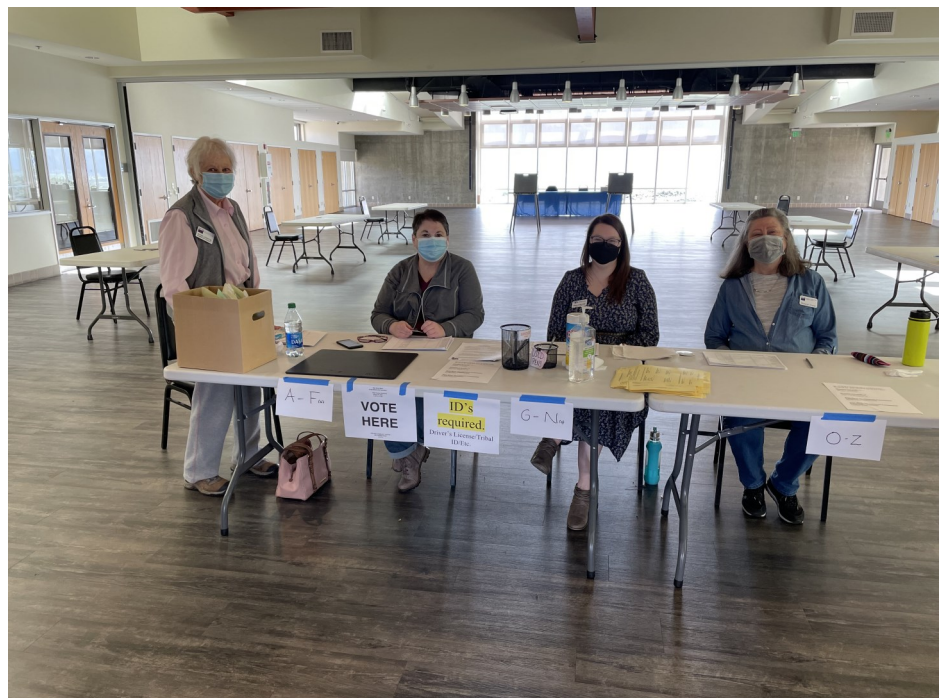
**Anne Hartline, Ann Diehl, Sharolyn Hutton,** and **Deborah Downs** all pitched in when I needed people for the Bear River candidate forums.

For the Bear River Election on March 26, many thanks go to **Judy Stoffer, Molly Cate, Janine Randall, Joan Williams, Leslie Leach, Nancy Frost, Nan Nieboer, Jessica Schlachter, Deborah Downs,** and **Peg Gardner**. Jessica, Deborah, and Peg get extra kudos for their work as the Election Board with me when we had to deal with one challenge before the election and two after the election on March 26, 2022!

**Joan Williams, Ann Diehl, Sylvia Shaw,** and **Sharolyn Hutton** helped with the Wiyot election, and **Maggie Augustine** and **Tracy-Jordan French** counted the Wiyot Recall Ballots with **Sharolyn Hutton**. Special thanks to Sharolyn for taking over that counting and reporting process while I was out of town.

And finally, I want to thank the following people for being willing to be alternates for various times and jobs, so that I was always able to manage any cancellations or emergencies: **Judy Bennett, Maggie Augustine, Sharolyn Hutton, Tracy Jordan-French, Kay Escarda, Molly Cate, Janine Randall, Nancy Kay, Judy Stoffer, Ann Diehl,** and **Joan Williams**. What a great bunch of awesome volunteers! Thank you all so much!

*Byrd Lochtie*  
*LWVHC Election Service Director*



L-R: **Byrd Lochtie, Jeanine Randall, Jessica Schlachter,** and **Deborah Downs** at the Bear River election

***Virtual State of the Community Luncheon Was a First***

The Morris Graves Museum made the perfect backdrop for this year’s virtual State of the Community Luncheon. The one-hour event is available to watch on our YouTube channel. See the link on our website or search for it on YouTube. Many thanks to Alissa Norman and Eddie Morgan, who contributed their technical talents to make this happen.

Our usual attendance at the SOCL, our major fundraiser, is around 400 people, but this year a small and enthusiastic audience including SOCL committee members and a few friends listened intently as Virginia Bass, chair of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, talked about the challenges and opportunities now facing the county. She mentioned many concerns about county finances, but she also mentioned some positive developments coming along in the future, including projects most of us are familiar with, such as the expansion of Cal Poly and the funding to replace the aging Hammond Trail Bridge. She also talked about how Zoom has expanded civic participation into outlying areas and mentioned her own efforts to give callers equal opportunities to speak at the Board of Supervisors meetings.

The stories behind each year’s Civic Contribution Award winners this year, as always, inspired us. Thanks go to **Byrd Lochtie**, whose thoroughly researched introductions enrich our understanding of the efforts of these caring and capable individuals. This year’s recipients were Wanda Wahlund, community volunteer, and Eric and Viviana Hollenbeck with their Blue Ox School and Historic Village. Wanda shared one story from the Quilter’s Guild that illustrated her statement that the work of the grass roots organizations she volunteers for “ripples out to everybody else.” She told a heartfelt story about a veteran who had been given one of their quilts and who then told the quilters that he wanted to be buried in it.

On behalf of Eric and herself, Viviana Hollenbeck expressed appreciation for the inspiration they have found through living in a community that values the beauty of our architectural heritage. She spoke about the way their skilled restoration work is now raising the consciousness of the larger community through the TV Series, *The Craftsman*, available on the Magnolia Network and on Prime. (I have been watching it and really enjoying it!) She also said that Eric has received many thank-yous for speaking openly about his dyslexia from people who have seen the shows.

Congratulations to the SOCL committee members who rose to the occasion this year with a creative way to recognize the award recipients during the pandemic: Chair **Judy Bennet, Judy Stoffer, Nancy Frost, Nancy Kay, Ann Diel, Debbie Hartman, Carolyn Prescott, Lorey Keele, Kay Escarda, and Byrd Lochtie and Debbe Hartridge**

Thanks also to Co-Presidents **Sharolyn Hutton and Jessica Schlachter** who ably introduced the event.

**Debbe Hartridge**  
LWVHC SOLC  
Committee Member



**Byrd Locktie** (right) presenting Wanda Wahlund with a beautiful commemorative tray.



**Byrd Lochtie** presenting Viviana and Eric Hollenbeck with a beautiful commemorative tray.

## The Perilous Plunge

On Saturday, April 16th, **Karen Price** and I participated in the Redwood Discovery Museum's Perilous Plunge. We collected a combined \$800 to benefit the beloved local museum and leapt into the 50-degree water of Humboldt Bay as a part of the event. Our jump won me the Rookie of the Year award, and both of us the Kayak Judges award. **Maggie Augustine** and **Joan Williams** set up a voter registration table and got four people registered to vote. Thank you to everyone who donated and everyone who was there cheering us on!

*Jessica Schlechter*  
LWVHC Co-President



The sun came out, the band played, and people cheered at the 2022 Perilous Plunge. Our fearless plungers, **Jessica Schlachter** and **Karen Price**, made quite a splash on behalf of LWVHC and by doing so raised money for the Discovery Museum. I thought they deserved a 10 for their perfectly choreographed bow and plunge! Jessica won the Rookie of the Year award and they shared the Kayak Judge Award. Hooray!

Hazel, the Schlachters' dog, led the way to **Maggie Augustine** and **Joan William's** registration table and the Cal-Poly Humboldt band played behind the table.

I called to the band members, "Are you registered to vote?"  
They roared back, "Yes, we are registered!"

It was a good day.

*Sharolyn Hutton*  
LWVHC Co-President

From top right clockwise: Jessica and Karen, winners! Hazel, the voter guide dog, and Karen and Jessica before and in the midst of the perilous plunge



**Joan Williams** and I manned the Voter Registration table at the Perilous Plunge. We were assigned a place on the edge of Dock F which allowed us to have good foot traffic. Our place was quite close to the Lumberjacks Band from CalPoly Humboldt, and we enjoyed their entertainment. Four individuals registered to vote; three of the four were students from CalPoly Humboldt. Many kudos to them and many thanks to Joan for her assistance. Also, a big shout out to **Jessica** and **Karen**. The LWVHC is very proud of them.

*Margaret Augustine*  
LWVHC Voter Service Director



### **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 2021-2022**

- Co-Presidents.....Sharolyn Hutton/  
Jessica Schlachter
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Anne Hartline
- Treasurer.....Nancy Kay
- Program Director.....Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Directors.....Molly Cate/  
Amy Moffat/Sylvia Shaw
- Government Directors.....Sharrone Blanck/  
Karen Price
- Fairs Director.....Becky Simpson
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Interim Forum Director.....Ann Diehl
- Voter Service Director.....Maggie Augustine
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Co-Editors....Dave Rosso/Leslie Leach
- Community Education Directors.....Nancy Kay/  
Amy Moffat
- Communications Director.....Deborah Downs
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Director.....Eddie Morgan





P.O. Box 3219  
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

## ***Get Involved!***

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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.

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## ***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 3 6 p.m.	Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 19 6:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting On Zoom
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
LWCHC Instagram	Any Time!