

### *President's Message*

Thanks to each of you who were present at our well-attended Fall Brunch Membership Meeting. Thank you also for your generous donations that more than covered the costs involved in having the brunch. It was wonderful, too, to have former President **Carol Johnson** in attendance. Special thanks to the following:

- The many board members who worked to make the brunch possible;
- The Eureka Veterans Memorial staff who helped set up for the meeting;
- Director **Julie Kelly** who, in Membership Chair Becky Simpson's absence, assumed the task of sending out the online invitations to the brunch and the proposed budget to all members;
- Humboldt County Clerk, Recorder and Registrar of Voters **Juan Pablo Cervantes** who spoke about the Voter's Choice Act and the Elections Office's expanded outreach to all parts of the county;

In addition, special thanks to the 51 League members who studied the recommended budget and voted to approve it online.

LWVUS is taking steps to increase membership nationally by making big changes in the ways people may join the League. Elsewhere in this VOTER you will find an article titled Membership Transformation Plan. We will keep you posted on the ongoing changes.

Community Elections Director **Byrd Lochtie** continues to act as a resource for tribal elections. See her article in this VOTER. She is also on the Civil Rights Commission and at the October board meeting she asked on behalf of the commission if LWVHC would lead a forum on civil discourse. The board approved doing that and suggested January or February would be the best months for such a forum.

The board also spent some time thinking about ways we can improve our communication with each other and with the community. We will continue to discuss this as it is an ongoing issue. If you have suggestions about this, please share them with the board.



*Sharolyn L. Hutton*  
*LWVHC Co-President*

**Welcome New and Returning Members**

**Crystal Bowman**  
**Cassandra Curr**  
**Arlene Meadows**  
**Kathy Polifroni**  
**Valerie Robinson**  
**Timothy Crlenjak**

### *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 Membership Transformation Plan*

When **Jessica Schlacter** and I attended the LWV 2022 National Convention in Denver, we both voted for what has been titled “The Membership Transformation Plan.” **Chris Carson**, LWVC president, chaired the ZOOM meeting on September 21, 2023, to explain the next step in this plan, “Framing the Future.” She made clear that there would be changes and “tweaks” during the implementation of this plan. She also said we as LWV have talked about needing to make changes since 1973, but that’s all that ever happened. When membership growth was only 3 percent and the average age of a League member was 68, it was decided action had to occur to ensure the future of LWV. The goal of this plan is to increase membership by making it possible and easier for more people to join.

One of the biggest changes would be a single, unified membership payment with dues going to LWVUS. The money gathered would be distributed with 33 percent to national, 47 percent to states, and 20 percent to local Leagues. There will be no more Per Member Payments (PMP) from local Leagues to LWVUS. Based on data gained from a poll completed by 88 percent of Leagues, including ours, and with other information national has collected, a scale for membership fees was created. At the moment, the average cost of membership in a California League is \$68, but it is \$49 in Nevada. Under the recommended fee structure, a standard membership would be \$75 for a single membership and \$112 for a household membership; however, optional membership payments would range from a floor of \$20 to tiers of \$150, \$250 and \$500. Life memberships remain the same.

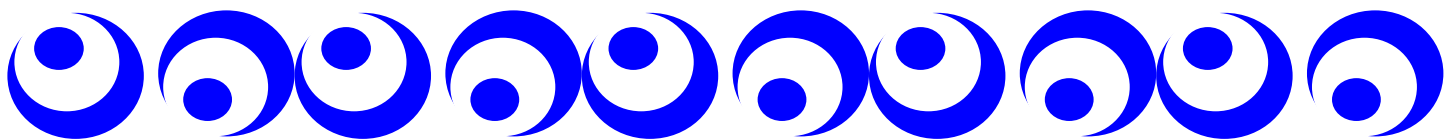
The second big change is that membership could be done online. A person could join LWV online and then select a specific League because there would be a selection process built in for any local League. So being able to join online and then having a sliding scale for payment would make it easier for a wider range of new members. Also, there would be an automatic renewal option, which, according to the League, should result in a 20 percent retention rate. Payments by check would also be accepted.

National has funds reserved, so that when the entire plan is implemented, there would be a two-year guarantee that no local League would lose money because of the changing structure. States with fewer Leagues than California will test this proposal.

I am hopeful.

You can learn more with this link to the FAQs. It’s the most current information and includes information on ChapterSpot. <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/membership/lwv-new-membership-system-faqs>

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



## *Looking at What's Ahead*

Once again, I'm postponing any discussion of the Inflation Reduction Act. By now, we all know that California lost one of its most influential women in government. Sen. Dianne Feinstein succumbed to the various ailments that had impeded her this past year. She served our government from November 4, 1992, until her death on September 30. Gov. Gavin Newsom quickly appointed a new senator. She is Laphonza Butler. Sen. Butler does not have any elected political history but has spent a large part of her professional career working as a union organizer. She is 44 years old. Her most recent employment was as president of Emily's List, which provides training and recruits women to run for political office. It endorses and funds female political candidates. Let's watch where her career goes as senator from California.

Action Alerts from LWVCA have been somewhat successful. ACA 13, a constitutional amendment, will be on the November ballot. This measure requires any legislation increasing the number of votes to pass, to also have that same number of votes. Both redistricting measures made it to the governor's desk. AB764 was signed by Newsom and AB1248 was vetoed. You can learn more about these bills by searching in Google.

California is instituting a minimum wage of \$20/hr. for fast food workers. We already have some information about measures that will be on the March 5 ballot. There will be a measure relating to Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bonds (AB 531) and the Behavioral Services Act (SB326). Portions of each will appear on the ballot as a single measure.

The Board of Supervisors voted to reinstate Measure S, the cannabis cultivation tax, at a rate of 10 percent. A local lawsuit has been filed to remove Measure A, a cannabis cultivation initiative, from the March 2024 ballot.

State Sen. Mike McGuire's legislation to expedite offshore wind development has been signed into law by the governor. McGuire states the bill will reduce the time for permitting and approval by five years. Not all citizens living on the coast are pleased with the idea of offshore wind energy. They worry that "the pace is so rapid and the projects so massive that their economies and environments are at risk." We should be hearing a lot more about wind farms in the future. Humboldt Bay is one of the sites selected for a wind farm.

Locally, there has been discussion about the future of the planned fish farm. Three organizations have appealed the Planning Commission's approval of the proposed fish farm -- Redwood Region Audubon Society, Humboldt Fisherman's Marketing Association, and 350 Humboldt. The appeal states concern over the environmental and economic impacts to the area. On September 28, our Board of Supervisors denied the appeal. The project will be going forward with yellowtail kingfish instead of salmon. There will be much to read in the future as this project moves forward.

The Board of Supervisors meets on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers located in the Humboldt County Courthouse in case you're motivated to learn more about what's happening locally.

**Judy Bennett**  
**LWVHC Government Director**





## *Share Your Thoughts*

We will hold the first position review membership meeting of the LWVHC 2023-2024 season via Zoom on Thursday, November 16, starting at 6:30 p.m. The position we'll be reviewing is, "The Role of Government in Economic Development in Humboldt County," last reviewed in 2014. We'll hear ideas from a variety of local specialists in the field of economic development. Most central, though, is to hear from you.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us in the Zoom room for this discussion, so important to all our lives and to the future of Humboldt County.

Look for an e-blast or two with the Zoom link about a week before the meeting.

See you there.

*Molly Cate*  
*LWVHC Program Director*

## *The 2023-2024 LWVHC Board of Directors*



Left to Right: *Jessica Schlachter, Karen Price, Maggie Fleming, Byrd Lochtie, Leslie Leach, Sylvia Shaw, Peggy Syvertson, Becky Simpson, Molly Cate, Anne Hartline, Sharolyn Hutton, and Julie Kelly*

Not pictured: *Judy Bennett, Cindy Humphry, Bonnie Oliver, and Michelle Vassel*



## PAST CIVIC CONTRIBUTION AWARD RECIPIENTS

1992 Sally Upatisringa	2008 Dr. Douglas Jager
1993 Leon & Jean Wagner	Gwynna Morris
1994 David T. Davis	2009 Arcata Community Recycling Center
John Gierek, Sr.	Carol Jacobson & the
The Humboldt Open Door Clinic	Eureka Symphony
1995 Dr. Doris K. Niles	2010 Rose Baker
Humboldt Literacy Project	Humboldt Community Breast
1996 Dale Neiman	Health Project
The Foodworks Culinary Center	2011 Byrd Lochtie
1997 David Lehman	Humboldt Sponsors
Eureka Elks Lodge #652	2012 P. J. "Paul" Nicholson
1998 The North Coast Journal	North Coast Stand Down
Carol Masterson	2013 Sylvia Noel Douglas & Dave
Sandra Warshaw	Douglas Food for People
1999 Sally Arnot	2014 Jimmy Smith
Ken Collins	CASA of Humboldt County
2000 Ina Harris	2015 Ruth Mountaingrove
Simona Keat	Helen Person
Alexandra Stillman	Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods
2001 KEET-TV	2016 Hospice of Humboldt
Ron Perry	Redwood Empire Quilters
2002 Humboldt Area Foundation	Guild Judith Stoffer
Muriel Dinsmore	2017 Access Humboldt
2003 Santiago Cruz	Marianne Pennekamp
2004 Kathryn Corbett	2018 Betty Diehl and the
Friends of the Redwood Libraries	Ferndale Community Choir
2005 Evergreen Lodge	NAMI, Humboldt National
(American Cancer Society,	Association on Mental Illness
College of the Redwoods,	2019 Dell'Arte International
Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka &	Michele McKeegan
St. Joseph Health System)	2022 Viviana & Eric Hollenbeck
2006 Kay Escarda	Wanda Wahlund
KINS - For Talk	2023 James Glover
Shop 2007 Marge Custis	Humboldt County Children's Author
Jan Kraepelien	Festival

***League of Women Voters of Humboldt County 2023-2024 Calendar***

<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<p>JULY</p> <p>7/22 10am-3pm Board Retreat</p>	<p>JANUARY</p> <p>1/2 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>1/18 Program (State) meeting</p>
<p>AUGUST</p> <p>No Board meeting</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>2/6 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>2/15 Program meeting</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>9/5 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>9/30 10-12n Membership Brunch</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>3/5 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>3/21 Program (Local) meeting</p>
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>10/3 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>10/19 Program meeting</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <p>4/2 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>4/19 11:30 SOCL</p>
<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>11/7 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>11/16 Program meeting</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>5/7 5:30 Board meeting</p> <p>5/30 5:30 Annual Meeting</p>
<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>12/5 5:30 Board meeting</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>6/4 5:30 Board meeting</p>

***LWVHC Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2023*****ASSETS**

## Current Assets

## Bank Accounts

Checking - Umpqua Bank	19,119.50
HAF - Restricted Education Fund	51,392.32
PayPal	-1,772.95
Savings - Umpqua Bank	16,959.55

<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$85,698.42</b>
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Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	2,040.00

<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$2,040.00</b>
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<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$87,738.42</b>
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<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$87,738.42</b>
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**LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**

## Liabilities

## Current Liabilities

## Other Current Liabilities

Pre-paid Dues	110.50
2023-2024	225.00

<b>Total Pre-paid Dues</b>	<b>335.50</b>
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Prepaid SOCL tickets	350.00
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<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$685.50</b>
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<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$685.50</b>
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<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$685.50</b>
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## Equity

Opening Balance Equity	84,495.26
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Retained Earnings	-5,253.61
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Net Income	7,811.27
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<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$87,052.92</b>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$87,738.42</b>
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### ***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 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.....Judy Bennett
- Fairs Director.....Becky Simpson
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Director.....Anne Hartline
- Voter Service Director.....Anne Harline
- 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.....Julie Kelly
- Director.....Bonnie Oliver
- Director.....Peggy Syvertson





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, November 7  
5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting  
Two Street Art Lab,  
527 2nd Street, Eureka  
or on Zoom

Thursday, November 16  
6:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting  
Review of the position  
“The Role of  
Government in  
Economic  
Development in  
Humboldt County”  
on Zoom

LWVHC Webpage

Any Time!

LWVHC X

Any Time!

LWVHC Instagram

Any Time!