

President's Message

Hello, League Members!

Well, we made it! Happy Election Day 2024!

I am so very proud of our League and all the work we put into this election to educate our community.

An extra special thank you goes out to **Anne Hartline** for all her hard work organizing the KEET Candidate Forums as well as all the voter registration drives at local fairs and schools. Congratulations is also extended to **Karen Price** for her wonderful organization of Pros n Cons for our OLLI presentation, which was very well attended!

We, again, used our positions to publicly take a stand on Measure F; thank you **Kay Escarda** for your insight and help on that important issue.

Finally, thanks to **Jessica Schlachter** for working diligently to get all our press releases out as well as advertising our voting resources throughout the local press.

A warm welcome goes to **Elaine Weinreb** as she will, once again, represent our League as our designated member on the Access Humboldt Board.

This month your Board will be hosting a membership meeting, Thursday, November 21, and will focus on our Civic Engagement position. These meetings are held on Zoom, and we look forward to seeing you there, as **Peggy Syvertson** helps us explore ways to keep our community informed of what is happening with local governments.

Happiest of Fall Gatherings to everyone,

Julie Kelly
LWVHC President

Celebrate with Access Humboldt

Join the fun on Wednesday, October 30 as Access Humboldt welcomes its new executive director, Christine Marie Jeffers, and celebrates the many accomplishments of retiring, founding executive director, Sean McLaughlin.

If you are an Access Humboldt member, be there at 4 p.m. for the annual membership meeting. If not, the party will begin at about 5 p.m.

See the flyer on p. 4.

Molly Cate
LWVHC Access Humboldt Liaison



Einstein has a message for everyone!

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.

Report on Official Board Actions from the Oct. 1, 2024 Meeting

Much of the Board's October 1 meeting was filled with reports on and planning for our activities related to the November 5 election. The Board also took the following "official actions":

Washington, D.C. Statehood: Board members discussed a resolution supporting statehood for the people of Washington, D.C., noting that our decision should be based on the issue of voting rights and not political or partisan concerns. It was moved, seconded, and passed with a unanimous vote that we adopt the following resolution of support:

"Therefore, be it resolved that the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County strongly supports legislation that will establish statehood for the people of the District of Columbia."

Re-adopt our Nonpartisan and DEI policies: It was moved, seconded, and passed with a unanimous vote that we re-adopt the following: DIVERSITY POLICY (Based on LWVUS with LWVHC additions: August 5, 2017; June 22, 2023):

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County (LWVHC), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to membership nor participation in the LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, or political affiliation.

LWVHC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVHC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, Board and programs. (Updated by the LWVUS Board 1/21/2024.)

Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be accepted within the League, including but not limited to race, socio-economic status, age, ability status, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, or marital status.

The League is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging for all people. The League is an organization that respects and values the richness of our community and our members. The collective sum of our individual differences and life experiences represents not only our culture, but our reputation and the organization's mission and achievements as well.

Bonnie Oliver

LWVHC Board Secretary

Program News: Position Review Meeting

Welcome New and Returning Members

**Laurel Busse
Corinne Frugoni
Autumn Luna
Kim McCollough
Sam Pennisi
Wes Rishel
Joan Werner**

Program News: Position Review Meeting

The first of two position review membership meetings for the 2024-2025 League year is scheduled on Zoom for Thursday, November 21 starting at 6:30 p.m.

Led by the Board Government Director, **Peggy Syvertson**, we will be examining our Civic Engagement position. To prepare for that Zoom meeting a committee of LWVHC members has been formed to evaluate the position and decide if it needs no changes, only small changes in language or a complete overhaul. That determination will set the focus for the November 21 meeting.

Save the date and time! Please plan to join us on Zoom for this first position review on the LWVHC calendar. More information will come your way in November.

Molly Cate
LWVHC Program Director

New LWVHC Liaison to Access Humboldt

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County is very pleased to announce that **Elaine Weinreb** has stepped forward to serve as the next League liaison to the Access Humboldt Board of Directors.

Elaine served in this same position a few years ago and we are very lucky to have her back.

The position became open when the current League liaison to and Chairperson of the AH Board, **Molly Cate**, decided to run for a three-year term on the Access Humboldt Board.

Thank you, Elaine!

Molly Cate,
LWVHC current Access Humboldt Liaison

In Memory of Hollie Klingel

Hollie Klingel, a long-time League member, who died recently, was an amazing activist. Despite numerous challenges in her own life, she was always ready to advocate for those less fortunate. She was a long-time member of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County and participated in studies on various subjects. She was especially active in the recent study on Behavioral Health that resulted in a new position for the League. She brought personal experience to that study and was willing to share her opinions with the study group, helping to craft the position statements that the League can now use to take action.

Hollie also attended Human Rights Commission meetings for years before she became a member of the Commission. Again, she was active and willing to speak up, and the Commission has lost a willing and effective member.

Our community has lost a champion — an exemplary citizen who always worked to make our community the best it could be.

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director

Celebrate with Access Humboldt

You are cordially invited to

ACCESS HUMBOLDT'S

ANNUAL MEETING

&

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday October 30, 2024

Access Humboldt's Community Media Center
7351 Tompkins Hill Rd RBC-A
College of the Redwoods, Eureka Campus

ALL ARE WELCOME !!!

Brief Membership Meeting at 4pm

Brief Board Meeting at 4:30pm

5pm Open House

5pm Open House

Meet the NEW Executive Director



HOW TO GET TO ACCESS HUMBOLDT



Fall Membership Brunch

On Saturday, September 28, we had our annual Membership Brunch. I want to thank our guest speakers Wes Rishel and Kevin Collins for informing us about The Transparency Project. Hopefully some of our members will volunteer to help with this project after the election.

And, thank you to all the members who helped to put this event together: **Anne Hartline** for getting Tiffany Bullman and her McKinleyville Culinary Class to make the treats that were available for our brunch. **Sharolyn Hutton** and **Leslie Leach** for getting our colorful table clothes. And all the members who helped to set up and take down the room for the event.

Thank you to all of you!

Becky Simpson
LWVHC Membership Director

Voter Service Update

By the time you receive this issue of The VOTER, the November 5 election, at least the VOTING part, will be over. No matter what the ultimate outcome, I feel proud of all LWVHC's outreach throughout our community. Here's what we accomplished:

We held a community forum for five of the seven Blue Lake City Council candidates at the Mad River Grange on September 26. It was wonderful to see 50+ community members gathered to ask lively questions of the candidates. As question sorters, **Bonnie Oliver** and I were kept quite busy sorting and rewriting questions for our moderator, **Julie Kelly**, to ask of the candidates. **Peggy Syvertson** was our expert timer, and **Sylvia Shaw**, our runner par excellence!

The following week, on 9/30 I registered 41 prospective voters at McKinleyville High. Yay! I also traveled to Fortuna on 10/2 to speak with members of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) about the importance of voting and I registered six voters there. When I polled them, I was thrilled to learn that the vast majority of the CCC members stated that they were already registered and planning to vote. I gave away numerous copies of the LWVC Pros and Cons and Easy Voter Guides brochures to assist them in their decision-making.

Finally, on Thursday of that week (10/3), **Patricia-Anne WinterSun** and I journeyed to Cal Poly Humboldt for the election trivia night. A good time was had by all, and we registered two more voters and gave out LOTS of voter information, including the Pros and Cons document, the Easy Voter Guide, and VOTE411 bookmarks.

Next, on 10/4 a candidate forum for with the candidates for Eureka City Council, Wards 2 and 4 was held on KEET. Our dynamic crew included **Byrd Lochtie**, moderator; **Peggy Syvertson**, timer; **Julie Kelly** and I, question sorters; and **Mary Ann Bansen**, **Dottie Riffenburg**, and **Tracy Jordan French** answered phones.

Two days later, on 10/16, we had our second (and final) KEET candidate forum for the year, this time with the California Assembly District 2 candidates Mike Greer and Chris Rogers. Woo hoo! It was thrilling that we were able to schedule a forum with the candidates for our large CA district, since both candidates had to drive long distances to attend the forum. Both of our candidates are to be applauded for their willingness to come to Eureka so that California District 2 voters could learn more about them. Our superb LWVHC crew consisted of **Julie Kelly**, moderator; **Kathy Johanson**, timer; **Bonnie Oliver** and I, question sorters; and **Kay Escarda**, **Janet Foos**, and **Tracy Jordan French** answered phones.

In addition to a HUGE THANK YOU to all our League volunteers, a huge THANK YOU is also due to Sam Greene and his expert crew at KEET-TV for making these two forums happen so smoothly and professionally. Working with Sam and KEET is always a pleasure, and I think it's really important that we acknowledge how valuable our collaboration with KEET-TV is.

The final Voter Service activity for the November 2024 Election has not yet taken place, but will be over by the time you read this article. On 10/28, I'm scheduled to speak to Arcata High School students about the California propositions. According to their teacher, Adam Pinkerton, the students have been researching the propositions and will be discussing them the week before the election. I am constantly impressed by the tireless efforts of Humboldt County educators to prepare their students to be active and informed voters! Thank you, teachers!

Whew! It's been a whirlwind, and I am so grateful to the MANY dedicated Leaguers who stepped up to register and educate voters this election season. As I stated at the beginning of this article, I am so proud of what we do as an organization to inform and motivate voters. We should all be very proud of who we are: the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County! We help make democracy work!

Anne Hartline
LWVHC Voter Service Director



The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

2025 State of the Community Luncheon Civic Contribution Award Nomination

Each year, at the State of the Community Luncheon, the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County honors individuals and/or groups for contributing to our community through their volunteer work. We are now accepting nominations for those community members you feel deserve this special recognition for their contributions. Please nominate a person or organization you feel should be considered for this honor and why.

Please provide us with the following:

Your name: _____ Address: _____

The best way to contact you (phone, email, text, etc.): _____

**Submit your nomination by Monday, December 2, 2024 to:
State of the Community Luncheon Committee, Maggie Fleming - P.O. Box 252,
Eureka CA 95502, or email maggiefleming2018@gmail.com**

Name of individual or group to be nominated: _____

Address: _____ Phone or email: _____

In what way has the person or group made a positive contribution to Humboldt County?

PAST CIVIC CONTRIBUTION AWARD RECIPIENTS

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|--|
| 1992 | Sally Upatisinga | 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 Eureka |
| | The Humboldt Open Door Clinic | | Symphony |
| 1995 | Dr. Doris K. Niles | 2010 | Rose Baker |
| | Humboldt Literacy Project | | Humboldt Community Breast Health |
| 1996 | Dale Neiman | | 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 Douglas |
| | Sandra Warshaw | | 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 Guild |
| 2002 | Humboldt Area Foundation | | Judith Stoffer |
| | Muriel Dinsmore | 2017 | Access Humboldt |
| 2003 | Santiago Cruz | | Marianne Pennekamp |
| 2004 | Kathryn Corbett | 2018 | Betty Diehl and the Ferndale Community |
| | Friends of the Redwood Libraries | | Choir |
| 2005 | Evergreen Lodge | | NAMI, Humboldt National Association on |
| | (American Cancer Society, | | 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 Shop | 2023 | James "Jim" Glover |
| 2007 | Marge Custis | | Humboldt County Children's |
| | Jan Kraepelien | | Authors Festival |

Wiyot Tribe Election

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, **Mary Ann Bansen** and **Dottie Riffenburg** met me at 9:30 a.m. for their two-hour shift at the Wiyot Community Center to monitor the Wiyot Tribal Election. Gary Markussen, Jr., who is in charge of the election process for the tribe, had already set up the polling booths, which they now own! There was a table for us where we would welcome voters, a roster for voters to sign, ballots and a ballot box, which was also provided for us. Most of the votes were mailed in so we checked off the numbers received with the names on the roster.

Kim McCullough arrived at 11:30 a.m. and **Janine Randall** came for her shift after picking up the mail in our Election P.O. Box in Eureka. At 1 p.m. the three of us opened the mail-in ballots, counted all the ballots, filled out the report forms for the Tribe, and cleaned up.

This was a typical day at a Wiyot Tribal Election. If this sounds like something you would like to volunteer to do for the League, watch for an email requesting help in April 2025! We will be signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Wiyot Tribe for their elections in April and October in both 2025 and 2026. It's always a fun way to spend some time with fellow Leaguers and earn a bit of money for our treasury. I look forward to signing you up!

Thanks to **Mary Ann, Dottie, Kim** and **Janine** for all their help on October 5!

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director



Thinking about the Future Now

I am looking for a League member (or members) to assist me for the next **Avenue of the Giants Marathon** on **May 4, 2025**. It's always run on the first Sunday in May. I want to train someone to take over the station for 2026. There's really not a lot to do. The runner's club provides all of the supplies, and we provide the volunteer staff.

I will have chaired the aid station some 60+ times by then. I love going out to the redwoods after a long winter, seeing the sun come through the trees, knowing the runners appreciate our help and adding \$500 or so to the League coffers! What's not to like? I will be glad to help, but I will be 89 next year and 90 (fingers crossed) by 2026, so it's time to pass the baton! It's easier to ease into it rather than jump in at the last minute. So, who will step up? Call me and let's talk.

707-442-7495.

Kay Escarda
LWVHC Avenue of the Giants Marathon Chair
707-442-7495.

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 2024-2025 League Board

- President.....Julie Kelly
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Bonnie Oliver
- Treasurer.....Michelle Vassel
- Program Director.....Molly Cate
- Natural Resources Director.....Cindy Humphry
- Social Policy Director.....Sylvia Shaw
- Government Director.....Peggy Syvertson
- Access Humboldt Liaison.....Molly Cate
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Director.....Anne Hartline
- Voter Service Director.....Anne Hartline
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Editor.....Leslie Leach
- Community Education Director.....Karen Price
- Communications Director.....Jessica Schlachter
- Traditional Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- Website Director.....Leslie Leach
- Director.....Kathy Johanson





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

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LWVHC Calendar

Wednesday, November 6
5:30 p.m. Board Meeting
in person at Babe's,
Pizza and Pasta
4015 Walnut Drive
Eureka, CA

OR on Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88910627631?pwd=86i5L042DOBrImhiaA9mMj3oBQiHil.1>

Meeting ID: 889 1062 7631 Passcode: 872197

Thursday, November 21
6:00 Membership Meeting
Civic Engagement
Position Review

Anytime LWVHC Webpage
LWVHC Instagram
LWVHC X