

President's Message

Hello League Members,

It is election time, and I have been studying alternative election methods because I was asked, "What do you know about Approval Voting?" At that time, I knew nothing, so I went online and discovered The Center for Election Science. I learned that Fargo, N.D. and St. Louis, MO. were the only places in the United States to have used Approval Voting (AV), so I contacted the Leagues in those cities. I will share what they told me in an article in this VOTER.

Our compliments are due to **Maggie Augustine** and the volunteers who helped her register voters at so many locations. Kudos to **Ann Diehl** and **Anne Hartline** and those who helped with their work at candidate forums at KEET and in-person. Also, I have heard from community members that they appreciate being able to watch the forums on YouTube.

Thanks go to **Karen Price** for organizing the Pros and Cons on the propositions at the OLLI Brown Bag Lunch on October 3. Thanks also go to **Deborah Downs** for getting the candidate forums and the State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL) citizen award nomination forms to Emily Gunderson who oversees our website. If you have not checked our website lately, please take a look. It is informative, colorful, easy to read, and up-to-date.

In addition to moderating our last two board meetings and answering questions online, co-president **Jessica Schlachter** is working diligently to overcome problems with posting on Facebook. We have our page up again, but nothing can be posted yet. This has been an on-going problem for two years.

Looking ahead, **Molly Cate** will be asking for your input as we go forward with the Behavioral Health Study. Her team will hold several membership meetings, so our position will be ready for presentation at our Annual Meeting in May.

Bomb Shell! **Nancy Kay** informed the board at our last meeting that she will be moving to Virginia.

This means that a new treasurer will be needed soon. If you are interested in assuming this responsibility, please contact Helen Andrews, our nominating chair. To say that we are going to miss Nancy is a huge understatement. Her work with the League in so many ways has been outstanding for many years. Thank you, Nancy!

Many of you will be helping at precincts on Election Day — Thank you!

Sharolyn L. Hutton
LWVHC Co-President

Help!

The League is looking for a new Treasurer as **Nancy Kay**, our current Treasurer, is leaving the area.

The position requires a working knowledge of QuickBooks and bookkeeping experience. Nancy has offered to help train the new Treasurer before leaving for her new home in Virginia. She will be available via Zoom to help with the League's bookkeeping after the first of the year.

If you are interested in this position, please contact me at 707-441-1948.

Thank you,

Helen Andrews
LWVHC Nominating Committee

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.

Behavioral Health Services Study Update

Our behavioral health services study reached a milestone on October 20 when we held our first of three LWVHC membership meetings via Zoom. Several members of the study committee presented findings related to the broad category of ‘diagnosis.’

We focused on topics the committee found most compelling to address here in Humboldt County. These included hiring the best clinicians, providing continuing education for behavioral health workers, the value of evidence-based, medically sound diagnostic practices, and two hot topics within diagnosing: anosognosia (the medically-based incapacity to recognize one is ill and needs help), and dual diagnosis (those who suffer simultaneously from a mental illness and substance use disorder).

Our special guest was Jacob Rosen, a clinician currently working with a group developing behavioral health response teams in collaboration with the Eureka Police Department. Jacob has experience with all facets of behavioral health here in Humboldt and is a great source of information. Nine LWVHC members joined with several board members to create a deep, insightful conversation. I must express my gratitude for the profound enrichment brought to the committee’s findings by these perceptive and compassionate League members.

Our committee will continue to meet via Zoom every Wednesday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. as we prepare for our next membership meeting on November 17. One special note: Jamie Jensen of the Cal Poly Humboldt Social Work Department has changed the date of her visit with the committee to Wednesday, November 16.

Members are welcome to attend our Zoom meetings.

The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83789562688?pwd=K1FsNW52MG5HVzV2em9NQ1p3S09BUT09>

Molly Cate
LWVHC Program Director

Welcome New Members

Lauren Jean Beaman

Rick Benoit

Susan Benoit

Pat Bitton

Susan Brauner

Natalia Estrada

Janet Foos

Sharon King

Katherine Reed

Welcome Returning Member

Duke Diehl

Approval Voting?

Approval Voting (AV) is an alternative to plurality voting and has been used successfully in France and Germany and in Fargo, ND and St. Louis, MO. Because the League of Women Voters approves the use of alternative voting methods, the members of the St. Louis League studied various methods and now have a position on Approval Voting. I contacted League members in both Fargo and St Louis and will share their stories later in this article.

AV allows voters to vote for as many candidates as they wish, yet the candidate with the most votes always wins.

According to the Center for Election Science, the following are highlights of AV:

More expressive

Removes vote splitting almost entirely, virtually eliminating spoilers

You can never get a worse result by voting for your favorite

Significantly fewer spoiled ballots

Ballots look the same, except the rules indicate that you may vote for any number of candidates

Results are still easy to understand: a simple list of the candidates along with how many votes they received

Tends to elect candidates who would beat all rivals head-to-head

Tends to elect more consensus winners

Alternate candidates get a more accurate measure of support

Fargo was the first US city to use Approval Voting. According to Whitney Oxendahl, now a member of the Red River League of Women Voters, there were two important reasons to advance AV in their community: low voter turnout and multiple candidate races ending with candidates being elected with only 13% of the vote, leaving voters dissatisfied. With a grant from the Center for Election Science, dedicated volunteers worked to educate the public through speeches and newspaper articles. They went to every group of citizens from civic clubs to schools to Trump rallies to talk about AV, and the League provided educational meetings. They gained enough signatures for the AV approval vote to be on the ballot although the city council members were opposed to it. It was approved overwhelmingly and used in the following election. As a result of that election, candidates were elected to local office with over fifty percent of the vote. Although many voters in Fargo want the entire state to use AV, that has not yet happened. You can read more at <https://reformfargo.org/faq>.

Kathleen Farrel of the Metro St. Louis LWV, explained that the League was one of many groups working in coalition to get Approval Voting on the ballot in November 2020. This was after League members studied the various alternative methods and decided AV was preferred to plurality voting and other alternatives. It passed with 71% of the vote, in spite of the push by city aldermen to prevent its passage. In 2022, AV was used for city races, and the turnout was excellent, plus citizens were more satisfied with the results. Prior to the elections, the League worked with other coalitions and assisted with citizen education. There were even League members at the polls to educate voters on the use of AV. Because of the League's work with various groups of other concerned voters, particularly with their educational approach, the Metro League's membership doubled, an unexpected bonus! You can go to LWV Convention 2022 and see the Alternative Voting Caucus for more information.

Side note: Kathleen Ferrell spent several years in Humboldt as a child.

Sharolyn L. Hutton
LWVHC Co-President



Election Work

Once again our League monitored the Wiyot Tribal Election on October 1, and then counted the votes. We also collected the mailed-in ballots in our Election P.O.Box. A big thank you to **Janine Randall, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, and Deborah Downs** for working with me that day.

I appreciate everyone's willingness to drive out to Table Bluff for a chance to help the Wiyot Tribe and to make a few dollars for our League. Thank you!

We have also signed a new two-year MOU with the Wiyot Tribe, to work with them on their April and October elections in 2023 and 2024. So don't be surprised if I give you a call for one of these elections.

Byrd Lochtie
LWVHC Election Service Director



Pros and Cons of Seven Propositions on the November Ballot

On October 3, the Community Education Committee presented an OLLI class on the seven propositions on the November 8 ballot. For anyone who missed the class and is interested, the recording can be found on the OLLI website: [archive on the OLLI website](#). There were 93 ZOOM attendees.

Nancy Kay, Byrd Lochtie, and Amy Moffat joined **Karen Price** in summarizing each of the propositions, going through the pros and cons, and fielding questions.

The ballot initiative process is an important and distinctive aspect of California law making; examining the propositions carefully helps us to vote wisely.

Thanks to the League members who provided this community service.

Karen Price
LWVHC Community Education Director



Thank You, LWVHC Volunteers

Thanks to the help of many wonderful LWVHC volunteers, we were able to put together seven candidate forums this October for the November 8 election. Four forums were live on KEET TV, and can still be viewed on the KEET YouTube channel and through Access Humboldt: Eureka City Council Wards 3 and 5, County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters, Arcata City Council, and Fortuna City Council. A special shout out to Sam Greene and the amazing KEET-TV staff for their flexibility, expertise, and sense of humor!

In addition to the KEET-TV forums, we also held two forums out in the community, one for Trinidad City Council and Proposition P, and one for the Blue Lake City Council. Finally, we will be supporting Adam Pinkerton's Advanced Placement Government students when they conduct a community forum at Arcata High on October 28.

None of this would be possible if it weren't for the support of our fantastic and intrepid LWVHC volunteers. Thank you all so much! Here's a list of volunteers (names with an asterisk indicate people who volunteered at more than one forum):

- Byrd Lochtie***
- Kathy Johanson***
- Julie Kelly***
- Mary Lou Lowry**
- Alan Lowry**
- Patricia-Anne WinterSun***
- Nancy Kay**
- Maggie Fleming***
- Karen Price**
- Michele Fell Casale**
- Sharolyn Hutton***
- Sylvia Shaw**
- Ann Diehl***
- Anne Hartline ***
- Kay Escarda**
- Natalya Estrada**
- Debbie Hartman**
- Jessica Schlachter**
- Elaine Weinreb**



At KEET with the studio team: (left to right) Valerie Crawford, Sam Green, **Kay Escarda**, David Thompson, Josie Vasquez, **Ann Diehl**, and **Patricia-Anne WinterSun**.

Whew! Our apologies if we missed someone! It was a big crew.

Most Sincerely,
Ann Diehl and
Anne Hartline
Co-Chairs,
LWVHC Forum Committee

At the Trinidad forum with: (left to right) **Jessica Schlachter**, **Byrd Lochtie**, Gabe Adams (City Clerk of Trinidad), Eli Naffah (City Manager), and **Sharolyn Hutton**.



PAST CIVIC CONTRIBUTION AWARD RECIPIENTS

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1992 | Sally Upatisringa | 2007 | Marge Custis |
| 1993 | Leon & Jean Wagner | | Jan Kraepelien |
| 1994 | David T. Davis | 2008 | Dr. Douglas Jager |
| | John Gierек, Sr. | | Gwynna Morris |
| | The Humboldt Open Door Clinic | 2009 | Arcata Community Recycling Center |
| 1995 | Dr. Doris K. Niles | | Carol Jacobson & the |
| | Humboldt Literacy Project | | Eureka Symphony |
| 1996 | Dale Neiman | 2010 | Rose Baker |
| | The Foodworks Culinary Center | | Humboldt Community Breast |
| 1997 | David Lehman | | Health Project |
| | Eureka Elks Lodge #652 | 2011 | Byrd Lochtie |
| 1998 | The North Coast Journal | | Humboldt Sponsors |
| | Carol Masterson | 2012 | P. J. "Paul" Nicholson |
| | Sandra Warshaw | | North Coast Stand Down |
| 1999 | Sally Arnot | 2013 | Sylvia Noel Douglas & |
| | Ken Collins | | Dave Douglas |
| 2000 | Ina Harris | | Food for People |
| | Simona Keat | 2014 | Jimmy Smith |
| | Alexandra Stillman | | CASA of Humboldt County |
| 2001 | KEET-TV | 2015 | Ruth Mountaingrove |
| | Ron Perry | | Helen Person |
| 2002 | Humboldt Area Foundation | | Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods |
| | Muriel Dinsmore | 2016 | Hospice of Humboldt Redwood |
| 2003 | Santiago Cruz | | Empire Quilters Guild |
| 2004 | Kathryn Corbett | | Judith Stoffer |
| | Friends of the Redwood Libraries | 2017 | Access Humboldt |
| 2005 | Evergreen Lodge | | Marianne Pennekamp |
| | (American Cancer Society, | 2018 | Betty Diehl and the Ferndale |
| | College of the Redwoods, | | Community Choir |
| | Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka & | | NAMI, Humboldt National Alliance |
| | St. Joseph Health System) | | on Mental Illness |
| 2006 | Kay Escarda | 2019 | Dell'Arte International |
| | KINS - For Talk Shop | | Michele McKeegan |
| | | 2020 | Viviana & Eric Hollenbeck |
| | | | Wanda Wahlund |

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 2022-2023 League Board

- Co-Presidents..... Sharolyn Hutton/
Jessica Schlachter
- Vice President.....Molly Cate
- Secretary.....Amy Moffet
- 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
- Forum Directors..... Ann Diehl/Anne Hartline
- Voter Service Director.....Maggie Augustine
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Social Media Chair.....Jessica Schlachter
- VOTER Co-Editors....Dave Rosso/Leslie Leach
- Community Education Directors.....Karen Price
Eddie Morgan
- Communications Director.....Deborah Downs
- 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 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, November 1 6:30 p.m.	LWVHC Board Meeting Zoom
Thursday, November 17 6:30 p.m.	Membership Meeting Behavioral Health Services
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!
LWCHC Instagram	Any Time!