

President's Message

Hello League Members!

What a wonderful annual meeting we had just a few weeks ago. We had the highest attendance anyone could recall at 45 members plus several guests. You really outdid yourselves. The food was great, with a great deal of interaction between members prior to the meeting. If you were there, you know what I mean; I'm sure you all enjoyed it as much as I did. And if you weren't there, you missed one of our best annual meetings!

This is the meeting where we complete our League's business and give direction to the newly elected board. We said goodbye to several wonderful board members leaving this year: **Kathie Simas, Lilach Assayag, Beth Bray, Laura Hennings, Krista Miller, and Byrd Lochtie**. We thank them for their service and look forward to seeing them among our committed volunteers.

We elected and welcomed our new board members. Elected for a two-year term: **Becky Simpson, Carol Masterson, Anne Hartline/Judy Bennett** (sharing a position), and **Nancy Kay**. Elected officers are **Rollin Richmond** (President), **Celeste Ruiz** (Vice President) and me (Past President). Continuing board members and officers include **Patricia-Anne WinterSun** (secretary), **Deborah Downs** (treasurer), and **Leslie Leach**, our fearless newsletter editor. Please join me in congratulations to our new board. Thank you to our nominating committee for a job well done: **Debbe Hartidge, Sharolyn Hutton, Lilach Assayag, Judy Bennett, and Rollin Richmond**.

We also recognized members with 50 years of League membership: **Kay Escarda, Phyllis Helligas, Beverly Morrison, Janis Schleunes, and Thea Gast**. **Rosemarie Falor-Luis**, a charter member of our League, was present with her daughter Irene. Rosemarie was previously recognized as a 50-year member.

The 2016-2017 budget and bylaws changes were passed by the membership. Krista led a wonderful review of this year's program planning and consensus building, making recommendations to the membership. If you have your annual meeting kit handy, please note that the dates for future programs all need to move up by one year. You will find these dates on page 4 in the second paragraph of program recommendations - 2015-2016 becomes 2016-2017 and so forth.

Coming up, the LWVUS Convention will be held June 16-19 in Washington, DC. Rollin, Celeste, and I are your delegates. Delegates attend the convention "informed but not instructed." We are excited to learn and bring back information for the board and our membership as well as to act on your behalf. We will be providing a report this summer - stay tuned for details!

Kathy Johanson
Co-President

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 League Goes to High School

by Nancy Kay

Recently LWVHC members registered voters at five Humboldt County high schools: Eureka, Arcata, Mattole Valley, McKinleyville, and South Fork High Schools. Approximately 75 students in total were registered during the schools' lunch periods. It is noteworthy that at several high schools, students had already registered to vote! A special thanks to **Byrd Lochtie, Rollin Richmond, Judy Geppert, Patricia -Anne WinterSun, Mary Lou Lowry, Kay Escarda, Kathy Johanson, Becky Simpson, and Lorraine Davis** for participating in this special registration drive, and to **Anne Hartline** who spearheaded this adventure.

In addition, four of the high schools invited the League to talk to students about voting. Nine classes of students, mostly of voting age, were presented with information about the following:

- Why Vote? (including a short video produced by San Francisco State University students and League handouts)
 - Current "hot" issues nationally, state-wide, and locally
 - History of America's disenfranchising (and franchising) various groups in America (including topics such as the original Constitutional qualified voters, the 1790 US Naturalization Act, various state-created disenfranchising laws for certain voters and their subsequent reversals, literacy tests, poll taxes, the 1857 Dred Scott Decision, and the 13th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Constitutional Amendments.)
 - Some foreign countries' struggles to enfranchise citizens
- How to Vote
 - How to choose a Political Party: (including League handouts)
 - History of political parties in the United States
 - The six political parties qualified in California (including handouts of the summaries of each of their platforms)
 - Ballots, walk-in and vote-by-mail options by various states (Three US states vote ONLY by mail -- can you name them?)
 - Option to select a political party or "No Party Preference"
 - Party demographics in California
 - Humboldt County
- What are primaries?

Conventions and caucuses

The change in party conventions since the 1960's
California's Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act and Voter-Nominated Offices

- What is the Electoral College?
 - The 12th Constitutional Amendment
 - Winner-take-all elections for electors
 - Superdelegates
- What is a Ballot Measure?
 - Types of ballot measures (including League handouts)
 - What ballot measure is on the June ballot?
 - What ballot measures are expected on the November ballot?
 - How to evaluate ballot measures
- The Ballot -- Actual sample ballots for the June 8th primary were reviewed

The curriculum was extensive, but when a topic appeared to have been covered already in the students' prior studies (e.g. the Electoral College), very little time was expended on it.

Was this a successful project? We think so. There is a possibility that we may offer voter registration and this presentation in the fall before the General Election to interested local high schools. If you are interested in participating, please contact **Nancy Kay** at 442-2729 or n-kay@nancykaycpa.com.



Kay Escarda helps her granddaughter, **Dezi**, register to vote at Arcata High.

A Record Number of High School Students Register to Vote at McKinleyville High School by Lorraine Davis

Becky Simpson and I, **Lorraine Davis**, had the privilege of staffing the booth at McKinleyville High School and registering forty-five high school students to vote! The tremendous turnout of 17 and 18 year olds was due in large part to World History and Civics instructor, Tiffany Bullman. Her enthusiasm and support of her students may very well translate into new voters engaged in this year's important local and national elections. I'd say that's "making democracy work."

It was heartening to see these teenagers take their first steps to participate in their right, responsibility, and privilege to have their voices heard.

I must mention, the school library is the ideal location for voter registration. School staffer, Sheri Myer, stopped by our table and made us feel welcome. Assistant Principal, Nic Collart, also stopped by to say hello.

As for the setting of our booth in the library, we noticed the numerous flags (well over 30) from countries around the world flying high on the library walls; each flag represents the country of students in the McKinleyville High foreign exchange program. Impressive. The world seemed small and large all at the same time.



Becky Simpson and Lorraine Davis at
McKinleyville High School



Students at McKinleyville High School registering to vote. In lower right photo center is Tiffany Bullman

Two Hundred Forty Years!

by Carol Masterson

Here we go again, more rapidly approaching the solstice every minute and celebrating all this solar energy with gardens and suntans, and, in the case of the **WinterSuns** and others, extra miles. It's that fabulous outdoor time that makes one look for a not-too-strenuous activity to "justify" enjoying all that sun and fresh air. May we suggest a few hours helping to register voters at one of our LWVHC Fourth of July booths in Eureka or Arcata? Let's make it a banner year: After all, it's a presidential election year with all its attendant hoopla, hyperbole, and hubris. Let's make some creative noise and splash of our own by helping **Becky Simpson** and her crews set up and accessorize the canopies with up-to-date information on what and who will be seen on the November ballot.

Of course, it's in these quadrennial elections that we have traditionally seen our greatest participation in the electoral process; this one shows promise of being a doozy. Come on out and celebrate! Two-hour shifts work well, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in both cities. buffy7@suddenlink.net. 707-768-3118.

Great thanks to all the volunteers who facilitated another informative, if brief, run of candidate forums on KEET-TV for the June primary: League members **Nancy Kay, Nan Nieboer, Deborah Downs, Elaine Weinreb, Becky Simpson, Patricia-Anne WinterSun, George Ojala, Alex Stillman, Michele Fell, George WinterSun, and Mary Lou Lowry** plus Production Director Sam Greene and his crew.

Also thanks to you who answered my request for folks to make the trip to Hoopa; at this time we have a full contingent. Making democracy work, that's us!

The California primary is on June 7:

It's too late to register to vote in the California Primary Election, but you can still register to vote in the General Election!

Check all the ways you can vote.
Get more Voting Info on where,
when, and how to vote.



OTE Are You Registered?

You can also register to vote using paper registration forms which are available in public libraries, post offices, government offices and the DMV. If you call your County Election Office, they will mail you a registration form.

Introducing Celeste Ruiz, the Next LWVHC Vice President

My name is **Celeste Ruiz**, and I am a new member of the board for the League of Women Voters Humboldt County. I want to take the time to introduce myself. I am originally from Carson City, Nevada. I moved to Humboldt County in 2013 with my two boys. I am currently working for the Bear River Casino and attending College of the Redwoods. I got involved with the League when I was chosen to sit on the Election Committee for the Bear River Tribe. During the course of the 2016 tribal elections, I became very interested in the League's activities and how they contribute to the community. The League has proven to be a very influential and productive part of our community. I am excited to be a part of such a great organization!

I would like to thank the current members of the League and the board for giving me the opportunity to learn all this organization has to offer as well as the opportunity to become an active member of the League.

Welcome New Member

Maya Conrad



Become a Member!

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grass-roots 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 1.

Visit www.LWVHC.org or mail the form below!

Yes! I want to join the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County and become a voice for citizens and a force for change. I am enclosing for my annual membership:

- ☐ \$60 Individual membership
- ☐ \$90 Household membership
- ☐ \$60 Associate membership
- ☐ Please accept my donation of _____
- ☐ Please send me more information
- ☐ I am interested in becoming a board member

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Please make checks payable to LWVHC, P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502.

**The League of Women Voters
of Humboldt County**

434 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501
P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502
www.lwvhc.org vote@lwvhc.org

**Who's Who in Your League Board
2015-2016**

Co-PresidentsByrd Lochtie, Kathy Johanson
Vice PresidentKrista Miller
Past PresidentAnne Hartline
SecretaryPatricia-Anne WinterSun
TreasurerDeborah Downs
DirectorLilach Assayag
DirectorBeth Bray
DirectorLaura Hennings
DirectorLeslie Leach
DirectorCarol Masterson
DirectorRollin Richmond
DirectorCeleste Ruiz
DirectorKathie Simas
DirectorBecky Simpson

ACTION

Action Laura Hennings
Program Krista Miller
Natural Resources Patricia-Anne WinterSun
Government Open
Social Policy Open

ADMINISTRATION

HistorianCarole Ziskin
Membership Becky Simpson
Nominating Committee Chair... Debbe Hartridge
Publications.....Lorey Keele
Hospitality..... Kathie Simas
Communications SupportHelen Andrews,
Patricia-Anne WinterSun

FUNDRAISING

Marathon Fundraiser Kay Escarda
Poll Workers Fundraiser..... Carolyn Otis
State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL)
Committee Chair Judy Bennett

MEDIA

Access Humboldt Rep. Rollin Richmond
Publicity and Social MediaLilach Assayag
WebsiteLilach Assayag
VOTER PublicationLeslie Leach
VOTER Circulation..... Carolyn Otis

VOTER SERVICE

Voter Service Director..... Becky Simpson
Candidate Forums Carol Masterson
Citizen Education Judy Bennett
Election Service Byrd Lochtie

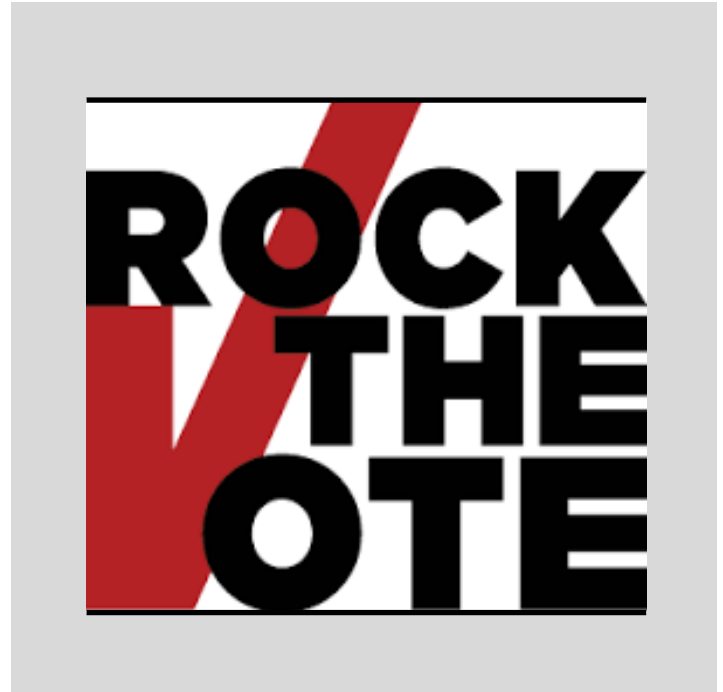
 **Find Us on Facebook!**

Another Beautiful Day on the Avenue! by Kay Escarda

Over 3,000 runners and walkers came from all over the United States and abroad to traverse the Avenue of the Giants on Sunday, May 1. **And they were ALL thirsty!**

The League crew, composed this year of **Carol Masterson, Darleene Sampson, Tom and Laura Oliver, Mary Lou and Alan Lowry and Kay Escarda** hustled nearly as fast as the runners to keep the water and Gatorade cups filled and blisters taped. It was unusually warm at our station amidst the redwoods; nice for us, but hard on the runners. We got tons of “Thank You” and “Thanks for being here” comments as they flew by.

Our League of Women Voters banner waves high against a redwood tree, causing one young woman to say she was going home to join up. I don’t know where “home” is, but I hope she does join. You don’t have to run to join, you know! Join anyway and come out to help us next year at the Avenue. It’s fun.



LWVHC Board Briefs

By Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Secretary

In May, your Board

- ♦ voted to change the order of position reviews in the Annual Meeting Kit
- ♦ confirmed our MOU for election service with the Bear River Band Rohnerville Rancheria for consulting work with the 2016 Election Committee
- ♦ celebrated the registration of 45 young people at McKinleyville High School
- ♦ selected 24 September 2016 for the Friendship Brunch, mark your calendars
- ♦ set the date for the 2017 State of the Community Luncheon as April 7, 2017.

Your Vote Matters!

You can make a difference! Be sure to vote in the Presidential Primary Election on June 7—and vote YES on Prop 50!

Help your friends and family by forwarding this message to them.: The League of Women Voters of California recommends a YES vote on Proposition 50 on the June ballot. Print and share our popular [Vote with the League flyer!](#)

Three reasons [we support Proposition 50, Suspension of Legislators:](#)

1. This constitutional amendment will give the houses of the legislature clear authority to discipline members by suspending them and withholding their pay by a two-thirds vote.
2. Lawmakers should be able to hold their colleagues accountable if they breach the public’s trust.
3. Safeguards in the measure will prevent this authority from being misused for partisan purposes.



P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

Address Service Requested

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 Policy

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. Not only shall there be no barriers to membership and participation in the LWVHC on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, economic status, nor political affiliation, but also the LWVHC will actively seek to reflect the diversity of the community in its membership, board and programs.

Making Democracy Work!

LWVHC Calendar

Tues. June 7	California Primary Your Local Polling Station
Tues., June 14 5:30 P.M.	Board Meeting League Office 434 7th Street, Eureka,
June 16-19	LWVUS Convention Washington, DC
