

Dear League Members:

April was a busy month for the League. The State of the Community Luncheon (SOCL) was another success as about 400 people attended the event. Cassandra Hesseltine, who is the Film Commissioner for Humboldt County, gave an excellent talk about her work encouraging film makers to use our beautiful environment and employ local folks to help. The SOCL gave their annual Civic Contribution Awards to Dell'Arte International and Michele McKeegan, a highly-respected Community Volunteer. The event was organized and run well by the League's Luncheon Committee, **Judy Bennett (Chair), Kay Escarda, Nancy Frost, Debbe Hartridge, Sharolyn Hutton, Nancy Kay, Lorey Keele, Julie Kelly, Byrd Lochtie, Carolyn Prescott, and Judith Stoffer.** Anne Hartline served as the Master of Ceremonies.

We had a brief May Board meeting before the Annual Meeting in order to seek advice from Board members about a proposal by **Hawley Riffenburg.** We began with an announcement by **Carol Masterson** that the League had been invited to be the Grand Marshal of the Wildwood Days Parade on August 3. The theme will be the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment to our Constitution which states: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The Board agreed that this would be a good opportunity for us. **Hawley's** proposal is to create an Instagram account for the League to attract younger members to the League and encourage young eligible voters to vote. In addition, **Hawley** is working with people at Humboldt State to engage student volunteers to work on the project. There was substantial discussion about this proposal, and it was approved by the Board.

We had a good turnout for the Annual Meeting on May 14th. **Patricia-Anne WinterSun** will provide minutes for us when they are approved by a review committee we appointed. Here is a brief summary of what we accomplished: I provided a summary of the things that the League has done over the last year. I reminded the League that we need a representative to serve on the Access Humboldt Board since **Elaine Weinreb** is stepping down after serving for several years. I also reminded the members that **Helen Hutchison**, President of the League of Voters of California asked us to inform members that the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission is looking for members. If you are interested, please review the information on the Shape California's Future website (<https://shapecaliforniasfuture.auditor.ca.gov/>). We then adopted the Governance Committee report, a proposed budget, the 2019-2020 proposed program and the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for Board membership for the coming year.

At the end of the meeting, we acknowledged the work of folks who will cease to be Board members as of July. They are: **Patricia-Anne WinterSun, Elaine Weinreb, Judy Bennett, and Kathy Johanson.** Current members of the Board were also acknowledged and each given a small gift.

Lastly, our new President, **Deborah Downs**, spoke to the meeting and asked members if they had directions for the Board for the coming year.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the President of the League for a few years, and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the League and to develop new friends. I was most grateful for a generous gift from the Board that will provide pleasure for my wife and me. We will, of course, continue to be League members, and I will be pleased to assist the League as needed.

I am looking forward to my final Board meeting on June 11th and wish you all a good month and an excellent new League year.

Rollin Richmond, President

Humboldt County's Election Office is Considering New Voting Systems

by Hawley Riffenburg

On March 6, the Office of Elections hosted a demonstration of [Hart Intercivic Verity](#) the most modern voting system available today. In June 2018, Gov. Jerry Brown approved spending \$134 million on modernizing election systems throughout the state as part of the state budget. Under the spending plan, 58 counties received state assistance in replacing ballot equipment, upgrading voter registration files and purchasing new software for local elections officials officers to ballots and support the equipment that run local elections. On March 26th, [Dominion Voting](#) will be demonstrating [Democracy Suite](#) as part of Humboldt County's selection process.

Verity's demonstration was attended by Elections Officers, election workers and LWVHC Rollin Richmond and myself. In a 3 hour presentation, Hart's representatives engaged questions as they shared Hart's innovative approach to their new solution and a new system that was enthusiastically received by those attending. Hart is the vendor of Humboldt County's current election system, since 2006. Karen Clakeley, Director of Strategic Accounts at Hart, shared that she advocates Humboldt's Transparency Project with other counties as a best practice for confidence in local election outcomes. Karen also discussed details about how the current partnership that Hart has with our Elections Officers in creating ballots for our elections. Last election, there were 41 different ballots and a high voter turnout to support.

Hart Intercivic was approved by the [State of California - Verity Certification Report](#) November 2018. It is the first election system designed using [Agile Project Management](#). Hart began this innovative effort in 2014 and is appreciative for the support of their customers in defining their new solution.

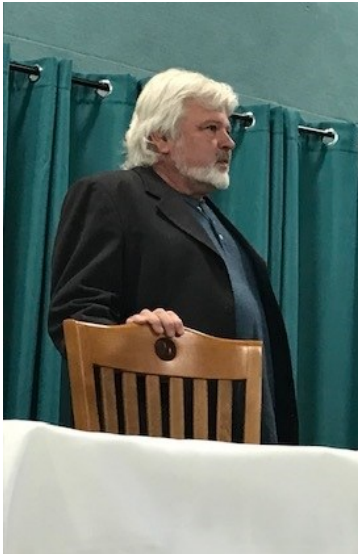
In the current list of State of California's certification, the list of Verity software tested and approved is extensive compared to other vendors who are upgrading systems with fixes and improvements to legacy code bases maintained using software development practice that internet businesses abandoned more than 10 years ago.

Hart's solution features selling a single unit that can be configured for each election into any part of the voting system needed - printing ballots, scanning ballots or being an Accessible Ballot Marking station for an election. Each unit is completely self contained and easy to transport and audit.

Verity's flexible configuration will support both Humboldt County's current polling places and the proposed polling centers model currently under consideration. Setting up polling places, ease of use for poll workers on election day and robust tool to validate election results are all demonstrated strengths of Verity.

New League Members

Molly Cate Lynne Wells Gregory Young Mary Dycus Shelley Holstein
Solon Holstein Cindi Knox Nancy Lengyel Beth Powell



State of Community Luncheon — Another Successful Event

by Judy Bennett

Well, we did it again, sold out the Adorni. It was outstanding, another wonderful State of the Community Luncheon, our 28th to be exact.

For those of you unable to attend the event, recipients this year were Michele McKeegan for her volunteerism in the county and Dell' Arte International.

Cassandra Hesseltine, Humboldt Del-Norte Film Commissioner was the keynote speaker and she inspired us to embrace the beauty, diversity and positive happenings in Humboldt County. Rex Bohn, chair of the board of supervisors informed us about the financial challenges facing Humboldt County.

The committee members excelled in their duties and I want to thank them all: **Nancy Kay** and **Judy Stoffer**, steering committee chairs who helped us achieve a gross income of over \$26,000.

Lorey Keele for organizing all the printed materials from solicitation letters to the event program.

Sharolyn Hutton and **Julie Kelly** for arrangements, making certain we had enough chairs, tables and food for everyone.

Nancy Frost for the lovely centerpieces which she designed and helped create.

Debbe Hartridge for all the wonderful publicity so the community knew who, what, when and where.

Byrd Lochtie for interviewing and introducing our recipients and telling us about each of them.

Kay Escarda for always finding an inspirational keynote speaker and arranging for the chair of the board of Supervisors to give the "state of the community" address.

Carolyn Prescott for keeping notes at our meetings and being there for support whenever I needed it.

And a special thank you to **Anne Hartline**, who incidentally was League President for our first ever State of the Community Luncheon in 1992, for doing a magnificent job as Master of Ceremonies.

It's an efficient and delightful group of Leaguers who I am proud to call my friends. Hopefully we will see you next year, Friday, April 24, 2019 at the Adorni Center as we celebrate 100 years of League and Women's Right to Vote. See you there!

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT PLASTICS?

Did you know there is an international organization called “Plastic Free July”? Every July there is a big push to eliminate plastics from our environment, particularly single-use plastic. Are you interested? Here are some tips to get you started.

- Choose to refuse single use plastic such as water bottles.
- If you do have plastic bottles or containers, choose to reuse them rather than throwing them in the garbage.
- Take your cloth shopping bag whenever you go into a store.
- Refuse any plastic bag if offered to you.

Please go to PLASTICFREEJULY.ORG to find out more about how you can help keep plastics out of our landfills and oceans. Good Luck!!

WIYOT TRIBE ELECTIONS

by Byrd Lochtie, Election Service Director

Once again our League was asked to monitor the Wiyot Tribe election on April 6, 2019. I am always so pleased when people respond to my request for workers at the election, and I want to thank **Hawley Riffenburg** and **Leslie Leach** for coming early to help set-up. Thanks to **Carol Masterson, Deborah Downs, Judy Stoffer, Bev Post, Sharolyn Hutton, Nan Nieboer,** and **Debbe Hartridge** for taking shifts during the day, even though we had very few voters. And thank you, **Alex Stillman**, for checking the P. O. Box Saturday afternoon, and driving all the way out to Table Bluff to ensure that the one last vote was counted! **Nan, Debbe** and **Hawley** counted votes at the end of the election, and helped clean-up.

I also appreciate **Kelly Sanders** and the Election Office staff who let us borrow voting booths. I think some of the voters are convinced it is a valid election because there are booths for privacy!

Finally I really must say thank you to the staff of the Wiyot Tribe. They provided us with sandwiches, veggies, chips and fruit “because we were going to be there during lunch!”

This is always a fun day, when we know we are helping the tribe make democracy work—and it adds a few dollars to our treasury. Thanks to everyone who makes it happen!

Another Avenue of the Giants Completed

By Kay Escarda, League Member

This year was uneventful – just the way we like it! Last year we had to give first aid to a runner. That turned out alright but more excitement than we like.

I’d like to thank **Janet Biasca, Carol Masterson, George Ojala, Darleene Sampson, Rudy Ramp, Vickie Turner, and Patricia-Anne WinterSun** for being a super good team. They get there very early and carry through with good energy and humor until the job is done. What a great crew!

Carol always brings the League banner and we get lots of kudos and recognition for League along with a gazillion “Thanks for being here”. A plus is that we earn a stipend for the League coffers as well. All in all, another beautiful day on the Avenue.

BOARD BRIEFS

In April your Board:

Decided to send the *Citizen Guide to Government* and *Facts for Voters* to our members with the Annual Meeting Kit and to form a committee to redo/revise/modernize our membership brochure .

Agreed to not releasing our delegates at LWVC Convention

In May your board:

Voted to approve the concept of an Instagram account, utilizing well monitored and trained student volunteers.

Agreed that the LWVHC will be the grand marshal of the Rio Dell Wildwood Days Parade on Saturday 3rd of August.

Liaison Needed for Access Humboldt

By Elaine Weinreb, Government Director

Have you ever wanted to produce your own TV show? Radio program? Do you know of a band, a theatrical group, a group of kids doing something very cool that deserves to be televised? Do you think that Humboldt deserves better local news coverage than that provided by big corporate networks who think that northern California ends in San Francisco? Do you think media literacy should be part of every child's education?

If your answer to any of these questions is a resounding "yes," you need to get involved with Access Humboldt, our very own local media organization that brings you TV Channels 8,10, 11, and 12 and radio station KZZH-FM.

From its beginnings, Access Humboldt has had a League of Women Voters member on its Board of Directors. The League's cool, rational non-partisan viewpoint, and experience in community organizing is very valuable to the Access Humboldt board. Not that the AH board consists of slouches: They are professional educators, artists, and government officials. The League has helped Access Humboldt with freedom of speech issues, such as protecting net neutrality in California, and protesting the monopolization of local news coverage.

To quote from Access Humboldt's annual report:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers....

"Put simply the mission of Access Humboldt is to amplify local voices through community media. As an innovative non-profit organization serving Humboldt County, California this is our key goal: To help residents engage in...informed participation in local governments, educational institutions and community-based organizations.

"To do that, Access Humboldt provides training, tools, advocacy and other support to foster residents' production of digital media and their access to cable channels....

During the past year Access Humboldt aired live and reran "192 public meetings – of the Board of Supervisors, city councils of Arcata, Eureka and Fortuna, planning commissions of Arcata, Fortuna and Humboldt County, Humboldt Waste Management Authority; and the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District.

"To aid voters, Access Humboldt produced several candidate forums. A broadcast of the Eureka mayoral candidates' panel was seen online 1,200 times." Town hall meetings are also broadcast.

Access Humboldt is also active in training the next generation of media producers, helping high school students learn how to produce their own programs. (Adults can also take advantage of the many workshops that Access Humboldt offers.)

The League of Women Voters needs a new liaison with Access Humboldt. This person need not be a board member of the League., but would become a board member of Access Humboldt. She would be obliged to attend one Access Humboldt board meeting per month. Meetings are on Wednesdays in the late afternoon, at the Eureka High School Campus. She would also be asked to participate on one or more auxiliary committees to help guide the organization. And she would be exposed to a wealth of opportunities for learning more about media, that frankly, people of the older generations were not exposed to during their own youth.

Please consider this, and if you are interested, contact Deborah Downs, LWVHC President for 2019/20 at dwnsdbrh@gmail.com

WILDWOOD DAYS

By Anne Hartline, LWVHC Board Member

I am pleased to share some exciting news with our LWVHC members. Our Board was recently contacted by Sharon Holt who is a board member of the Rio Dell/Scotia Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is busy planning their August, 2019 Wildwood Days event and they would like LWVHC to be the Grand Marshall in their parade! What an honor! Their parade theme is the passage of the 19th Amendment, and their main message for 2019 is "Register and Vote!" Obviously, this smoothly aligns with our goals and mission and the League Board has enthusiastically approved our participation in this fun summer event. Since the Chamber is also non-partisan, this is a fantastic way for us to kick off our new League year and our 2019/2020 emphasis on celebrating and honoring the 100 year anniversary of American women getting the right to vote.

There are many details that will need to be worked out, but in the meantime, here's what I know:

Dates for Wildwood Days: August 2, 3, and 4

Parade Date/Time: Saturday, August 3 with a 12 noon start

The Chamber has already arranged a flatbed truck on which we will ride, and they plan for us to have a Voter Registration booth in Fireman's Hall, also on Saturday. However, they are open to all kinds of options in terms of how we can additionally participate.

The LWVHC Board has already formed a small committee but we'll need LOTS of member participation to pull this off. Hopefully we can have many Leaguers in the parade, lots of participation at the booth, and maybe even costumed Leaguers mingling all three days at Wildwood Days events handing out flyers and registering voters.

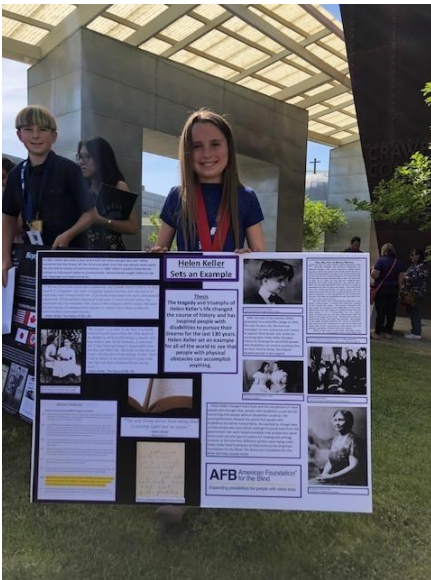
Doesn't that sound like fun??!!! If you'd like to be involved in any way, please contact me (Anne Hartline) at annehartline10@gmail.com and let me know.

**Happy New Fiscal Year! Happy Hundredth, LWV! Happy Independence Day!
Let's Party!**

Thanks to all of you who signed up at Annual Meeting to participate in our Fourth of July booths in Arcata and Eureka! This should be a really exciting and busy year for us---our CENTENNIEL is upon us! Can we deliver first-rate Voter Service in a presidential election year with a mouthful of birthday cake? We'll find out! More and more people are getting involved in the electoral process, and we're here to help them navigate. There are still several slots to be filled in both cities on the Fourth, so please don't be shy: give me a buzz at 768-3118 or buffy7@suddenlink.net. And thank you for your service.

League Supports and Honors Students Again at History Day

For a number of years, the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County have supported local students who participate in Humboldt County History Day. Many Leaguers serve as judges at the 4th – 12th grade event at Humboldt State every year, and a pair or trio of Leaguers roam through the event and select projects which align with our themes of voting rights and women's rights through history. These projects are awarded with gift certificates to a local bookstore. Later, a Leaguers attend a coaching session for students and determine which projects we will support with a travel scholarship as they move on to State History Day in Rocklin, CA.



This year was no exception. The theme for History Day 2019 was “Triumph and Tragedy in History.” Byrd Lochtie, Mary Lou Lowry and Alan Lowry were on hand at County History Day at Humboldt State on March 9 to view projects and select award recipients. Mary Lou and Alan also stayed for the Awards Ceremony and made the presentations. We saw MANY smiling faces that day.

Later in April, Kathy Johanson, Byrd Lochtie and Rollin Richmond attended coaching sessions for County Champions who were preparing to go on to State History Day. They determined four scholarship winners from LWVHC, each of whom received a check for \$200 to help with their travel expenses to Rocklin. The students awarded by LWVHC were:

Bien Hou and Emily Nord from Zane Middle School
 Amnma Grimmatt from Zane Middle School
 Mia Nannizzi from Jacoby Creek School
 Salma Awwad from South Bay Middle School

These students went on to Rocklin to face some very stiff competition. I'm proud to announce that one of the League scholarship recipients, Mia Nannizzi, was honored as a runner-up in the final competition for her poster on “Helen Keller Makes a Change.” Here's a picture of Mia in Rocklin with her award-winning poster.

Next year's theme is “Breaking Barriers in History.” What a great theme as we move into the 100-year anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment!!

On a very important final note: Special thanks need to go out to Kathy Johanson. From the very beginning, Kathy passionately embraced League support of History Day and worked tirelessly every year to make sure students felt supported by the League. Sadly for LWVHC, Kathy is moving out of the area. Though she has promised she'll try to come back to Humboldt County to help with History Day, we'll need at least five Leaguers to take her place. THANK YOU KATHY for all your work and dedication to students, History Day and LWVHC. WE'LL MISS YOU!!!!

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

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info@lwvhc.org

2018-2019 BOARD

- President.....Rollin Richmond
- Vice President.....Deborah Downs
- Secretary.....Patricia-Anne WinterSun
- Treasurer.....Nancy Kay
- Program Director.....Judy Bennett
- Natural Resources Director.....Leslie Leach
- Social Policy Director.....Keith Flamer
- Government Director.....Elaine Weinreb
- Election Service Director.....Byrd Lochtie
- Forum Director.....Carol Masterson
- Voter Service Director.....Anne Hartline
- Membership Director.....Becky Simpson
- Membership Advocacy.....Hawley Riffenburg
- Webmaster/Social Media Chair.....Kathy Johanson
- VOTER Editor.....Julie Kelly
- Community Education DirectorNancy Kay
- Communication Director.....Julie Kelly
- Traditional Media/Publicity Chair.....Jessica Snow

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.

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 _____

FOLLOW US —
WE HAVE SEVERAL WAYS!!

WEBSITE = lwvhc.org

FACEBOOK = League of Women Voters Humboldt County

TWITTER = @LWVHumboldt



Join Now!



P.O. Box 3219
Eureka, CA 95502

To:

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.