



# The Voter

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

November, 2015

Carol Czadek, President

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

*November meeting*

### **New Legislation Regulates Medical Marijuana, “Seed to Sale”**

by Nancy Kleiber

The League’s November meeting, 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10th at the Caspar Community Center, will feature guest speakers Carrie Lindecker (from State Senator Mike McGuire’s Ukiah office) and Ruth Valenzuela (from the Ukiah office of Assembly Member Jim Wood), who will recap the trio of bills concerning marijuana that were recently signed into law by Governor Brown.

While California was the first state to legalize medical marijuana in 1996, with the passage of Proposition 15 (the Compassionate Use Act), little had been done in the 19 years since to protect patients from pesticide-tainted cannabis and unscrupulous physicians, to protect the environment from neglect, destruction and water diversion and to set standards to identify drugged drivers. In September 2015, the state Legislature passed 3 bills (AB 243, AB 266, SB 643), collectively known as the Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act, designed to provide a



comprehensive regulatory framework for medical marijuana. Our local elected representatives played a key role in this landmark legislation.

Jim Wood was elected in November 2014 to represent California’s 2nd Assembly District, which comprises all of Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties, plus northern and coastal Sonoma County, including the northern half of Santa Rosa. In his first year in the Assembly, Wood authored 9 bills that were signed into law, including the Marijuana Watershed Protection Act (AB 243), which serves as the environmental cornerstone of the new regulations. Wood also was a co-sponsor of AB 266, which was carried by Assemblymember Rob Bonta from Alameda.

Mike McGuire was elected to the State Senate in 2014 in the 2nd District, which includes the coastal counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin as well as the inland counties to Trinity and Lake. McGuire authored SB 643, the capstone of the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act. McGuire said of the new law signed on October 9th, 2015, “From seed to sale, for the first time in our state’s history, medical marijuana will now be regulated across the state of California.”

As always, the public is welcome at League meetings. Please invite a friend. Coffee, tea, and conversation will be available starting at 9:30.

#### **Mission Statement**

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, strives to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

*President's message***People's Climate March: We Must Lead Our Leaders**

by Carol Czadek

The UN climate summit in Paris this December will be the biggest global climate summit this decade. World leaders must agree on the goal of a decarbonized global economy powered by clean energy. Creating a world powered on clean energy will save ourselves from climate catastrophe, but will require a revolutionary transition in our economies. Unless our leaders feel serious public pressure, they'll never go far enough or fast enough to address climate change. That's why, on November 29th, the day before world leaders converge in Paris, a global People's Climate March is planned. In thousands of cities and towns across the planet, people will gather or march for our communities and those already at risk from climate change, for the future of our children and grandchildren, united for an economy powered by 100% clean and safe energy, where good jobs benefit people and planet alike, and for a world protected from the ravages of climate change, where everyone has a right to food, water, clean air, and a healthy life. Miguel Canete, the European commissioner for climate action and energy, says "No plan B if Paris climate summit ends in failure."

Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States said, "Climate change is the greatest environmental threat of our generation, perhaps of all time. How we deal with climate change will be our legacy and the legacy for our children and grandchildren." The League has pushed for executive action on climate change, and recently sent a letter to President Obama, which calls for the President to "take the



historically necessary step of controlling industrial carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. Use your existing regulatory authority to make this happen." The letter concludes, "President Obama, if you don't do it, it

won't get done. If the United States doesn't lead, the rest of the world cannot follow." For information on the League's position on climate change, go to

<http://lww.org/content/national-call-action-global-warming>.

Here is a website for some info on the Peoples Climate March:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jul/29/peoples-climate-march-the-revolution-starts-here>. There is some talk

about local environmental groups organizing a march in Mendocino or Fort Bragg on the same day in order to avoid going to Santa Rosa (big carbon footprint to travel there) where the Avaaz group has a march planned. I would really like to encourage our League members to join in marching and to carry placards with our LWV logo. I am checking with Lloyd Leonard, the LWVUS chief advocacy person, as to what they know or are planning to do. It would be great to have guidance from National for banners, etc. to be used in the name of the League.

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County

P.O. Box 1128 Fort Bragg, CA 95437

(707) 937-4952

[www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org)

**Please visit us on our new Facebook page:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1>**

## CEO Bob Edwards Speaks to League About Hospital's State of Health

by Becky Bowen

"The community has to believe we are the place to go," Mendocino Coast District Hospital CEO Bob Edwards told members at the October 13th meeting at the Caspar Community Center. Here are highlights:

- The hospital made a profit last month. "Bankruptcy is behind us," he said. But the hospital experiences an ongoing gap between expenditures and revenues. "We break even on Medicare patients but reimbursement for Medi-Cal patient treatment runs about 50 per cent and the gap has to be filled," he said.
- The future holds a mandate to meet earthquake safety standards by 2030. That means construction of a new hospital (less costly than seismic retrofitting) and that will cost \$100 million. "I don't know where the money will come from," he said. The hospital was built in 1971.
- He will ask district trustees to seek voter approval of a hospital parcel tax. But parcel tax revenues should serve patient needs and not fund construction of a new hospital, he said. "We need to grow the business and be lean," he said.
- A meeting in June with community members produced a list of 111 "things we need to do."
- It's hard to attract doctors to a rural community where housing costs are high for a doctor who may have large student loan debts. There also is no guarantee of employment for a doctor's spouse. Edward continues to explore development of incentives that will attract healthcare providers to the coast.

The hospital is owned by the Mendocino Coast Healthcare District, a special district that serves the communities of Westport, Fort Bragg, Caspar, Mendocino, Little River, Albion, Elk, Comptche, Gualala, Manchester and Point Arena. Five trustees are elected at large. If the hospital closed its doors, the healthcare district would still exist to serve the healthcare needs of the coastal community.

The LWV local position on the healthcare district emphasizes a financially sound hospital that offers services to meet community needs and communicates meaningfully with the community.

### Update to Bob Edwards' presentation

When Mr. Edwards spoke to the local League on October 13, he stated the people tasked with presenting a strategic plan had identified five priorities for immediate attention. He could not discuss them with us as they had not yet been presented to the Hospital's Planning Committee. At the October 22nd hospital board meeting, the five priorities were presented:

- Explore the feasibility of getting a parcel tax proposal onto the ballot for the June 2016 election. This time frame, if the tax passed, would allow collection of taxes to begin in January 2017. If the measure has to be postponed to the November 2016 election, collection could not begin until January 2018.
- Develop a fast track program in the Emergency Department that would be able to process 12 patients a day by February 2016.
- Offer an in-house pain management program with providers skilled in that specialty. *(Note: the board passed a motion by Dr. Kermen to establish such a program.)*
- Remodel six inpatient rooms to improve patient experience and care.
- Implement a scorecard program to track quality of service.

Three additional goals were mentioned for the second phase, including:

- Reduce the number of transfers,
- Assure quality care to raise the scores on patient experience surveys, and
- Secure the services of a full-time orthopedic surgeon.

*Gathering Our Thoughts***How Can We Engage Younger People in League Activities?**

compiled by Susan Mitchell

*Editor's note: "Gathering Our Thoughts" is a new ongoing feature designed to create a conversation among our League members about the topics that concern us right now. You are invited to suggest questions for future columns. Contact information below.*

Responses to this month's question:

Don Kirkpatrick: "I would suggest that you contact the principals of our local schools and ask to speak to some of the classrooms where they discuss current events. Explain what the League does and invite interested student to come to a meeting."

Becky Bowen: "Young people's lives are full (some care for parents AND children) so time is precious and the League must offer activities that are relevant, timely and interesting. Programs must be held at convenient times (that means either lunch-time meetings or evening meetings). And best for us to remember (even though it's painful for us) that younger people get information by media other than newspapers, magazines, or books, so we need to get with the times in order to get our message across. A good start is to visit our League Facebook page. It's easy, fun and free and gets our name (and coverage of our good work) out there where it can make a difference.

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1>

Charlene MacAllister: "It apparently isn't just a US problem. See this article: <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/apr/19/why-young-people-dont-vote-apathy-or-antipathy-election-2015>

My first suggestion is to go to a High School class room (or community college) and ask those who are in the 18-20 year old range why they would/do or wouldn't /don't vote. Then we need to look at how we reach out to voters and see if we are even close to reaching a younger audience."

Sharon di Mauro : "I suggest you invite them. Target potential attendees through referrals from teachers, principals and personal references from

members of the League. Send potentials a personal invitation card to an event that might spark their interest.

An example might be sending an invitation to the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, etc. of the student body for a candidate forum. They could help with questions from the audience and/or questions from their peers."

Jennifer Owen: "I don't think I'm a "younger member", but I can't attend your meetings because I work in Fort Bragg, regular work hours (8am to 5pm). If meetings - or even just some meetings - were scheduled around lunch time or breakfast or at 5pm, I would be more likely to be able to attend. I suspect that work obligations impede ability of others of all ages to attend. To entice younger folks, I think a young advocate/liason and maybe creation of a young member section would help. It's my experience that there are younger folks interested in politics and political processes and the type of good work the LWV does, but I don't think they are very aware of the LWV."

Janet Morris: "Voters' service is what got me into the League in the 50's. Making my way through all the propositions without the League's help is unthinkable. How about a meeting on the propositions at 5 or 6 o'clock somewhere the younger and employed could order coffee and sandwiches after work."

Val Muchowski: "Have themes that appeal to them: reproductive rights, college loan debt, child care. Young speakers."

Carol Czadek: made a great observation at the meeting on Tuesday, October 13th. She joined the League when she retired. Perhaps we should try concentrating on getting the "newly retired" to join by "bringing a friend" to meetings.

Both Betty Barber and Doris Hammer mentioned that young people, because of changing demographics, work commitments, etc., perhaps do not find the League very relevant. We need to address that problem.



*Viewpoint*

## **Engaging Young People: a California League Perspective**

by Jane Person

This question was the topic of a breakout session at the May LWVC convention, conducted by two young women who had done extensive research on the question. Here is some of what they said, and also some suggestions I thought of for implementing their ideas in our League calendar.

Millenials (people in their 20's and 30's) do not join groups that have broad agendas, such as the League, Red Cross, National Wildlife Association and the like. They do lend energy and time to specific local issues such as offshore drilling in Mendocino County or saving manatees in Florida (but only if they live there). To ask them to join the League and sit in meetings is a waste of time. They aren't interested.

Rather, Leagues, these presenters said, should partner with other organizations by going to those organizations and asking how we can help. Such partnering helps put the League brand out there and helps us further issues we have positions on.

In our local league, we might get beyond just having meetings. In September the Latino Coalition has a well attended Independence Day in a local park. This year I set up a table to register voters, but owing to a wrenched back I had to get a substitute to sit for two hours. Next year we need a team of League members with our banner to take two-hour shifts. This spring we

need a team of League members to go to the local high school civics classes and make a pitch for voter registration and for voting. There are at least four high schools with probably two civics classes each, so a team of us is needed. It can't be just one person, or two.

Maybe we could begin with a brainstorming session, listing issues we could support and which would appeal to young people. But, frankly, going to the high schools is for now the most important, and a committee or team needs to be formed that would come up with a format for a League presentation.

Another possibility is partnering with the Latino Coalition and the new Ft. Bragg police chief (who is also Hispanic) to sponsor a session with adults to register to vote. Then later we could do the same to explain the ballot measures.

### ***Our question for next month:***

What question would you most like to hear the presidential candidates answer at their next debate?

Please email your responses to Susan Mitchell:

[gatesuz@gmail.com](mailto:gatesuz@gmail.com) or [jsmith@mcn.org](mailto:jsmith@mcn.org)

## **LWVMC Member Meetings**

The public is invited to attend all member meetings at no charge. Meetings are held on Tuesdays (except as noted), with refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 10:00. All will be held at the Caspar Community Center.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker or moderator</b>
<b>November 10th</b>	Marijuana Regulation	Nancy Kleiber
<b>January 12th</b>	LWV National Positions	Barbara Matheson and Carol Czadek
<b>February 9th</b>	The County Prison	Speaker, Sheriff Tom Allman
<b>March 18th</b>	Meet and Greet	Jary Stavely and Patricia Marien
<b>April 12th</b>	Effect of State Regulations On Local Water Systems	Pat Dunbar
<b>May 10th</b>	LWV Mendocino Annual Meeting	President Carol Czadek

## Brown Signs Voting Rights Expansion

### Other States Place Restrictions

by Jane Person

Governor Brown signed AB 1461 this month, giving about 6.6 million eligible but unregistered voters -- predominately African-American, Latino, and Asian Pacific Islanders -- the chance to register. According to the bill, a driver's license transaction automatically registers those eligible as California voters.

LWVC has been a prime mover in this important piece of legislation. In addition, the League, partnering with other groups and with Secretary of State Alex Padilla, worked to restore voting rights for the formerly incarcerated denied by Padilla's predecessor, Debra Bowen. Bowen issued a directive in 2011 excluding otherwise eligible Californians if they were on post-release community supervision or mandatory supervision. These new programs are aimed at people sentenced for low-level, nonviolent felonies. Bowen appealed a lawsuit ruling that her directive illegally stripped about 60,000 people, a high number being people of color, of the right to vote. Padilla has withdrawn the court challenge.

"We are thrilled that this administration has effectively said 'no' to Jim Crow," said Lori Shellenberger, Director of the ACLU of California's Voting Rights Project. But elsewhere in the nation the news is mixed.

Brennan Center for Justice reports that as of November 2014 at least 340 bills expanding voting rights were introduced in 42 state legislatures. Twelve states plus the District of Columbia passed 19 bills expanding these rights. California, for example, allows 16-year-olds to preregister. Illinois voters passed a ballot measure establishing constitutional protections against discrimination in voting. At least 19 states have introduced bills that would allow same-day registration. (For more information see [www.brennancenter.org/analysis/voting-laws-roundup-2014](http://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/voting-laws-roundup-2014)).

Yet in other states Jim Crow seems to be wearing a tuxedo. Ohio prohibits individuals who lack ID or a Social Security number from voting even on a provisional ballot. Georgia, North Carolina,

Our State and National Leagues are working for us on voting rights and other important issues. Follow their work on their websites:

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

[www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)

Ohio, and Wisconsin have introduced bills requiring proof of citizenship to register or to vote. At least six states have introduced bills that would reduce access to absentee ballots. New Hampshire and North Carolina make it harder for students to register and vote.

One could hardly find a more contentious issue in politics today. The passage of AB 1461, however, puts California on the side of history.

Check out California's voting rights record and compare it to other states':

National Commission on Voting Rights  
<http://votingrightstoday.org>

Read what the President has to say about the Voting Rights Act:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/civil-rights/voting-rights-act>

### Board Meetings

Our Board meets (almost) monthly to discuss meeting programs and actions such as voter registration and letters-to-the-editor Meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Community Room of the Fort Bragg Library, except as noted. All members are welcome. Attend a Board meeting to get a little deeper into League. You might even decide you want to join the Board. Meeting dates are **November 3rd**, **December 8th**; **January 26th**; **March 1st**; **March 29th**; **April 26th**; and **June 14th** (11 a.m. at the Westport Hotel).

## Marijuana Regulation in the News

compiled by Jary Stavely

Local newspapers recently carried two articles concerning marijuana. On October 1st, the *Advocate* reported on a raid which the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office had conducted on property owned by the Pinoleville Pomo Nation near Ukiah. According to the article, the sheriff's office seized and destroyed property belonging to the tribe's cannabis collective because it determined that the 'grow' had been carried out for financial gain, and thus was illegal under the county's medical marijuana regulations.

Tribal authorities had announced earlier that the tribe was organizing a cannabis collective as a nonprofit organization allowed in a 39-page cannabis ordinance enacted by the tribal government. According to the article, tribal authorities dispute the sheriff's authority to seize their property, and expect to be vindicated in court.

On October 8th, the *Advocate* published an article describing how Fiona Ma, State Board of

Equalization member for the district including Mendocino County (and speaker at the August 22nd Women's Right to Vote celebration in Mendocino) recently visited Colorado to study its efforts to establish a comprehensive regulatory and taxation system for cannabis.

Ma stated that establishing such a system will be of great importance for California. In 2014 the State collected \$44 million in sales taxes from only 25% of the medical cannabis dispensaries with active operations in the state. Collecting such monies is complicated by the cash-only basis of the business, as banks have been reluctant to be involved in business deposits or loans relating to the marijuana industry, as long as it is illegal under federal law. She also pointed out that regulating transportation in the cannabis industry is difficult, and she expects to convene a stakeholder meeting around that issue in mid- to late November.

### Membership Form

It's still not too late to renew your membership in LWVMC. Dues for 2015-2016 cover the period from September 2015 to September 2016.

Or pass this form on to an interested friend. New members should include their e-mail address.

Please consider joining at one of these levels:

Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership ... \$60

Amelia Bloomer Two-member Household Membership ... \$90

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership ... \$100

Carrie Chapman Catt Membership ... \$250 or more \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for chapter activities (*not* tax-deductible) ... \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to LWV Education Fund (tax-deductible) ... \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: LWV Mendocino County

And mail to: LWVMC  
P.O. Box 1128  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

## 2014-2015 Officers and Directors Contact List

President Carol Czadek  
964-9271 [norcoel@mcn.org](mailto:norcoel@mcn.org)

Vice President Dorine Real  
964-2781 [dorine@mcn.org](mailto:dorine@mcn.org)

Vice President Nancy Kleiber  
964-6862 [nkleiberca@mac.com](mailto:nkleiberca@mac.com)

Secretary Cindy Plank  
357-4272 [theplanks@yahoo.com](mailto:theplanks@yahoo.com)

Treasurer Lee Tepper  
964-2781 [eel@mcn.org](mailto:eel@mcn.org)

Voter Service Jane Person  
964-6351 [janeperson@hotmail.com](mailto:janeperson@hotmail.com)

Director JoAn Blackstone  
937-2481 [joanblackstone@comcast.net](mailto:joanblackstone@comcast.net)

Director Roberta Brockschmidt  
964-3600 [RRBrockschmidt@comcast.net](mailto:RRBrockschmidt@comcast.net)

Director Pat Dunbar  
937-3409 [pdunbar@mcn.org](mailto:pdunbar@mcn.org)

Director Sharon Gilligan  
964-3600 [sharongilligan@comcast.net](mailto:sharongilligan@comcast.net)

Director Babs Levine  
937-0629 [babs.levine@gmail.com](mailto:babs.levine@gmail.com)

Membership Jary Stavely  
964-4942 [jstavely@mcn.org](mailto:jstavely@mcn.org)

Off-Board Chairpersons  
Budget Jim Plank  
Nominating Betty Barber

### *Voter staff*

Editors Jary Stavely, Lee Tepper  
Staff Carol Czadek, Jane Person,  
Sharon Gilligan, Dorine Real