



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

November/December, 2009

Jane Person, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

COUNTY CLERK REPORTS SURGE IN NUMBER OF MAIL-IN BALLOTS



Submitted by Susan Eveleth

The Mendocino County Clerk's office has reported that for this upcoming election, more mail-in-ballots have been received than in most previous elections. But there are always questions and not everyone uses a mail-in ballot. Here are some FAQ's about elections.

How do I know my ballot has been received by the County

Clerk's office?

Use the number on the tear-off portion of your ballot. Have this number ready when you call 463-4371.

Or you can check on line to see if it has been received:

www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/cgi-bin/absentee.pl

Don't want to mail your ballot in? You can take it to any pre-

cinct and there will be a special locked box to drop it into. You may even wish to fill it out at the precinct. It must be received by the close of the day, or you can take it to the County Clerk's office in Ukiah by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

What time do the polls open and close? Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

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LEAGUE'S DECEMBER 1 MEETING AGENDA INCLUDES LUNCH AND TALK BY FORT BRAGG SCHOOL OFFICIAL

Submitted by Barbara Matheson

Dr. Donald Armstrong, Superintendent of Fort Bragg Unified School District, is guest speaker at the general meeting Tuesday, December 1, 2009.

The meeting is at 10:15 a.m. at the Hill House Inn, Mendocino and luncheon will be noon.

Armstrong joined the district staff in July,

2008. He asked to talk about his vision for the Fort Bragg Schools, how declining enrollment and state budget cuts affect the district, and the programs about which he is most proud.

Armstrong began his educational career in Ukiah. He moved to Fort Bragg from Sebastopol where he worked six years as Superintendent of the Twin Hills Union

School District. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.A. in Educational Administration from San Francisco State University and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of La Verne. His wife, Kathryn LeMieux, is a syndicated cartoonist and painter. They have one grown son.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN MEETING DATE FOR THIS DECEMBER MEETING—AND MAKE YOUR LUNCH RESERVATION BY MAILING FORM ON BACK PAGE OF THIS VOTER

2009-2010

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Becky Bowen, Susan Eveleth, Louis Hough,
Susan Mitchell, Jane Person

President's Message

The League Board, all 11 of us, are trying very hard to make our meetings something our members look forward to coming to. The topics are timely, the discussion afterwards is lively, and the information gained is useful. Now, we want more of you to come.

Increasing membership participation is a hallmark of Board activity this year. We have created a phone tree, so you should have someone calling you about each meeting. (You can always tell them not to call if you wish.) We have also appointed greeters at the door for each meeting.



Many members have said they gladly pay their dues because the League does good work but they don't want to participate, and the Board respects that. However a group of only 11 can't do the good work alone. Many of the Board members have been serving for a lot of years and would welcome fresh faces and fresh ideas. The idea that haunts me, frankly, is that at some point there will not be enough Board members for our League to continue. At this point, for example, we are still looking for a Board secretary to fill a resignation.

We will be creating committees this year to deal with some of the issues coming before us and will be calling on you to help. Becoming involved with the League is not only fun, but also it provides intellectual stimulation in a way that many other volunteer activities, by their very nature, may not. In addition, you will (I guarantee!) learn a great deal about the Mendocino community and the people who run it.

If you have any interest in writing or editing, please consider joining the Voter Staff headed by Charlene McAllister. If you are involved in other community activities like sustainability, the Mendocino Land Trust, the Coast Clinic and the Hospital, social services and the like, please let someone on the Board know so that we can include you in a way wherein you can use this knowledge. To be an active League member doesn't require a passionate interest in the political process at the national or state level (although we wouldn't rule that out!). It just starts with an interest in what's happening in our beloved Mendocino Coast. Former

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PROFILES IN LEAGUE — PATRICIA MARIEN

Editor's Note—Patricia Marien, our Second Vice-President, was born in Highland Park, MI (part of Detroit). In 1973, she moved to California, lived 18 years in the Bay Area and 13 years in Arcata. She moved to the Mendocino Coast 4 years ago. We asked her about her proudest moments.

On a Personal Level:

In 1972, the Equal Rights movement finally started opening up jobs to women, which had previously been exclusively for men. The next year, with 12 years of work experience as a clerk in a large grocery store behind me, with only a high school education, and with determination and desire to acquire one of those new positions, I came to California to get the job of my dreams. I became a sales representative for General Mills, equipped with my own company car and a larger income, calling on stores in the Bay Area. We new women in outside sales jobs, comprised only 3% of the national grocery sales force. We were given spe-



cial scrutiny as the companies watched to see if their experiment with female sales workers would succeed, in spite of stereotypical fears about child-bearing, romances, and emotional stability. I am proud that I/we successfully proved that their fears were ill-founded.

On a Bettering-the-World Level:

While working as a purchasing assistant in the mail courier divi-

sion of a mortgage company of 125 employees in 1989, I discovered that our company was using 1,500 styrofoam cups per month. We had all the free coffee and tea you could drink in a day, available to everyone. This bothered me, so I wrote up a proposal showing how much the company could save (not very much, considering the cost of styrofoam) if we used our own company ceramic cups. But more importantly, I pointed out the positive effect on the planet which this change would bring about. Styrofoam was not recyclable in those days. Although some colleagues grumbled about having to wash their own cups, most were in favor. The company accepted my proposal. I was elated, and later that year I received a \$200 "Best Idea of the Year" award! (The company was happy that we got public recognition in the Marin Conservation League newsletter.)

By Patricia Marien

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

House Speaker Tip O'Neill is reputed to have said, "All politics is local," and that observation is true here.

One place the League can use your talents is in the Observer Program. League members sit in on the meetings of spe-

cial districts, the Fort Bragg and Mendocino School Board, the Ft. Bragg City Council, the Mendocino Historical Review Board and others. You would be surprised at the respect you get when you walk in wearing the League of Women Voters badge.

Our Brown Act training class last spring grew out of our study of special districts and the meetings that committee members went to. More good works.

In another vein, League President Mary Wilson is sending out the first

announcement of the League of Women Voters National Convention in June in Atlanta. (The National League meets every other year). Any League member is welcome to go. I would like to go and would love some company!

Jane Person

Calendar of Events 2009

Tuesday, November 3, 2009: Election Day

Tuesday, November 10, 2009: General Meeting: 9:30 a.m. – noon

Location: St. Michael's Church, Fort Bragg

Topic: Seniors and the Law

Presentation by Attorneys-At-Law JoAn Blackstone (RET) and Brandt Stickel

Board of Directors Meeting 12:30 – 3 p.m. (Board members bring sack lunch)

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009 (Note date change): General Meeting and Holiday Luncheon

Location: Hill House Inn – Mendocino

(Reservations required – see last page of this VOTER)

Time: 10:15 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Topic: Education

Guest Speaker: Fort Bragg Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donald Armstrong

Please Save These Dates for 2010

Tuesday, January 12, 2010: General Meeting:

League Orientation and Local and National Program Planning

Tuesday, February 9, 2010: General Meeting:

League's 90th Birthday Celebration plus forum on 2010 Census

Friday, March 12, 2010: League Event

Fifth Annual Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials

Tuesday, April 13, 2010: General Meeting:

Discussion of State Ballot Measures

Tuesday, May 11, 2010: ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

October 2009 League of Women Voters Candidate Forums



League Moderator Sharon DiMauro, Oct. 1, 2009, Fort Bragg Town Hall.



County Board of Education Trustee Area 5 Incumbent Candidate Nice Alterman (left) and Candidate George Montag, October 1, 2009, Fort Bragg Town Hall.

College of the Redwoods Board of Trustees Area 8 Candidate Barbara Rice (left), League Voter Service Chair JoAn Blackstone and Incumbent Candidate Will Smith, October 1, 2009, Fort Bragg Town Hall.



Above left League Moderator Pat Dunbar with four candidates for Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District shown (as seated) from left: Candidate Kelly King, Incumbent Candidate Harold V. Sipila, Incumbent Candidate Caesar Ynez and Incumbent Candidate Jon McColley, October 19, 2009, C.V. Starr Community Center Multipurpose Room, Fort Bragg.

To view election forums, click on: www.mendocoasttv.org/CityMeetingsthumbnails.html

Membership in The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County is a bargain and a statement. You will be saying that you are committed to the ballot as a means for change and to providing non-biased information to voters. The issues your League follows are those that affect every resident's family and community. Get involved in the League of Women Voters.

Please consider joining at one of these levels:

Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership \$55 _____

Amelia Bloomer Two-member Household Membership \$80 _____

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership \$100 _____

Carrie Chapman Catt Membership \$250 _____ or more

Donation _____

Please send me more information:

Name/
Names: _____ Address _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to: League of Women Voters of Mendocino County

And mail to: Carol Ann Falk

45575 South Caspar Drive

Mendocino, CA 95460

**The League of Women Voters
Of Mendocino County
P.O. Box 1128
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
707 937-4952**

Library of Congress—Legislation Status

www.thomas.loc.gov

County Clerk-Recorder

Election Information

707 463-4371

www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org

www.ca.lwv.org

www.lwv.org

Gentle Reminder for Members

If you have not renewed your membership for 2009-2010, please make your check payable to LWVMC and send your renewals to:

Carol Ann Falk

45575 Caspar Drive

Mendocino, CA 95460

LWVMC Board Updates

President Jane Person has appointed a committee to study League Voter Service strategy for the June 2010 election, including coordination of activity throughout the county.

Membership now has four categories: Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership at \$55; Amelia Bloomer Household Membership at \$80; Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership at \$100; and Carrie Chapman Catt Membership at \$250 or more.

The League has sent a letter to College of the Redwoods President Jeff Marsee regarding the non-completion of modernization construction at the Mendocino campus. The science labs were to be modernized under Measure Q (passed in 2004) but have yet been done. The letter urged Marsee to do so.

League members can view archived public meetings at the following website:

www.mendocoasttv.org/CityMeetingsthumbnails.html

Blackstone, Stickel Prepare November 13, 2009 Program About "Seniors and the Law"

Brandt Stickel and League member JoAn Blackstone will present "Seniors and the Law" at the next general meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Michael's Church, Fort Bragg. The program is based on a publication ("Seniors and the Law") funded by the California Bar Foundation. The publication will be available at the meeting.

Topics will include estate planning issues, avoiding scams, driving/getting around, credit issues, financial and physical elder abuse and nursing home selection tips.

Stickel is a local attorney and Blackstone now is an inactive member of the California bar. There will be time for questions.

MISSION STATEMENT

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, A NON-PARTISAN 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.

Regional Workshop Update

Voter Service Representative JoAn Blackstone attended the Sacramento County League's regional training workshop October 17 at the University of Southern California's Sacramento campus. Both the first presentation, on "Policital, Yes; Partisan, NO! Walking the Find Line", by LWVC Past President Jackie Jacobberger and the lunch table topic/networking group JoAn joined dealt with the same subject. LVWC Communications Director Jenny Waggoner gave a "Guided Tour of LWVC's Members Only Web Page Plus Examples of How Leagues Use Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter." Finally, an update on Redistricting and Constitutional Reform was presented by LWVC Director Suzanne Stassevitch. Watch for more about both of these issues, as well as the League's role in encouraging full participation for an accurate U.S. Census in 2010, in the coming weeks and months.

"Stand Up to the Lies" TV Ad Viewed 4,000 Times on YouTube (NEW)

Last week the League began airing a 30-second TV ad in support of health care reform on select stations in Maine, North Dakota and Arkansas. We also continued to promote the ad on our website, [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#), and in a League [e-engagement email](#). The ad and its [press release](#) were distributed to a wide media list, the White House press office and all six Senate offices in the targeted states. Feedback on Facebook has been positive, and the ad has been viewed almost 4,000 times on YouTube. Press coverage has included the [Boston Globe](#); [ABC.com](#), The Hotline, [South Carolina News](#) and KTSU FM Houston (NPR).

A Friend We'll Miss



*Larry Willoughby, our friend and supporter, died October 9, 2009 in Fort Bragg. He posed here for us at the 2008 League Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials Event. Mary Willoughby published the **VOTER** for many years and our thoughts are with her and the Willoughby family.*

Election Day..... continued from Page 1

Votes may be cast at the polling place or cast by mail, using the "Vote-by-mail" process. Late-arriving Vote-by-mail ballots are not counted (just as you would not be able to vote if you arrived at your polling place at 9:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m.).

What if I've voted for a candidate who has since withdrawn from the race? A candidate may withdraw from the race after the ballots are printed. Votes cast for her/him are, nevertheless, counted and that candidate might win.*

When and how are votes counted? When polls close at 8:00 p.m. ballots are counted (only the number of ballots are counted—not the votes). Ballots are then placed into sealed bags and taken to the County Clerk's office in Ukiah where votes are tallied. After 8:00 p.m. on Election Night mail-in ballots previously received and processed (signatures verified) are counted in the County Clerk's office.

Mail-in ballots and provisional ballots turned in at the precincts are processed after they arrive in the County Clerk's office (to verify signatures) and votes counted.

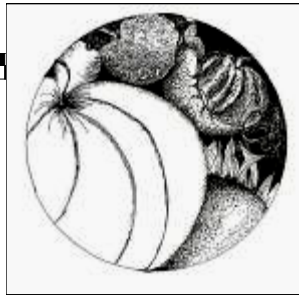
For more information about elections and this particular one, here are some on-line resources:

www.smartvoter.org

www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr

www.calvoter.org/voter/faq.html

***Editor's Note: Two candidates in the current election announced withdrawal from races after their names were printed on ballots. Announcements were in letters to the editor published in the *Mendocino Beacon and Fort Bragg Advocate-News*: David Jensen, Board of Trustees, College of the Redwoods, Area 8; and Jonah Freedman, Mendocino County Board of Education, Area 6. Dr. Freedman's letter also appeared in the *Ukiah Daily Journal*.**



**You are Cordially Invited to Join Us
To Celebrate the Seasons
League of Women Voters Luncheon Meeting
Hill House, Mendocino
Tuesday, December 1, 2009
10:15 a.m.—1 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker: Don Armstrong,
Fort Bragg Superintendent of Schools**

Luncheon is \$18. Please select your entrée:

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Your name _____

Your phone number _____

Please select one from the following entree choices:

Cobb Salad _____

Oriental Chicken Salad _____

Snapper Vera Cruz _____

Please send your entree choice and \$18 check to
Patricia Marien
205 N. Harold St.
Fort Bragg, Ca 95437

(Patricia Marien's e-mail: paprika@mcn.org or call 964-4942)

CHECKS MUST BE SENT BY NOVEMBER 24 TO RESERVE A SEAT