



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

January/February, 2011

Jane Person, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

LEAGUE MEMBERS SELECT MENDOCINO COUNTY GRAND JURY AS FOCUS FOR DISCUSSION AT JANUARY 11 GENERAL MEETING

League members will hear a program about the County Grand Jury at the League's general meeting Tuesday, January 11, 2011, at the C.V. Starr Center in Fort Bragg.

Members Wendy Roberts and Nancy Kleiber will review the award-winning report about the Redwood Coast Senior Center, an analysis prepared by the 2008-2009 Grand Jury on which they served. Mem-

ber Kathy Wylie, who has served as a director of the California Grand Jury Association, will talk about qualifications and training for grand jurors.

Ms. Wylie is a member of a team that trains newly-sworn grand jurors throughout California every year. She served on the 2003-2004 Mendocino County Grand Jury and was appointed Foreman in 2004-2005, 2009-

2010 and 2010-2011. Ms. Wylie, of Albion, has worked for 13 years at Mendocino High School where she teaches computer applications, desktop publishing, graphics and animation, multimedia production, business and career exploration.

Please join us at the meeting at 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 11 at the C.V. Starr Center, Fort Bragg. Coffee served at 9:30 a.m.

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From left: County Grand Jury members Wendy Roberts, Carol Rosenberg, Barbra Reed, Nancy Kleiber, and Betty Hook accept Excellence in Reporting Award from CA Grand Jurors' Assn. member Daniel Mufson for outstanding achievement in its report, "Nobody (is) Was Listening: The Redwood Coast Senior Center." The award was presented in Sacramento October 29, 2009.

Photo by Don Roberts

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President's Message—One issue LWVUS supports is passage of the Dream Act, which would provide undocumented immigrants with the chance to earn permanent legal status if certain requirements are met: They must have come to the US before the age of 16, possess good moral character, finish high school or obtain a G.E.D., and then complete two years of college or military service.



Sounds like the kind of immigrant any country would be lucky to have. As it is now, such people are unable to participate in society in even the most basic ways—going to a four-year college, getting a job, or even obtaining a drivers license.

Years ago when I was teaching AVID (a college prep tutoring program) in San Diego, a student like this came into my class as a senior. Elena had close to a 4.0 average and was highly regarded by her teachers as bright, curious, and ambitious—a perfect candidate for University of California acceptance. Elena had ambition, all right. She had come to the US as a second grader, and although English was not spoken at home, she spoke it flawlessly. She wanted to be a translator; besides being fluent in Spanish, she had taken French and German in high school, and loved languages.

But while filling applications out for college and Pell Grants, she learned that her father, years before, had taken out citizenship only for himself, not for his wife and daughter. He didn't think they needed to be citizens, and, worse, he refused to pay for his daughter's education, saying girls didn't need to be educated either.

This was in the early nineties. Now, seventeen-year-old Elena could have been deported as well.

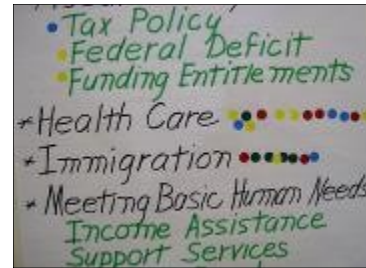
The New York Times (Dec. 8, 2010) describes how Hector Lopez, a 21-year-old junior college student, was deported to Mexico in August after having lived in Oregon since infancy. Lopez finally turned himself into border immigration authorities requesting asylum. He had tried to find a job in Mexico City but could not speak Spanish well, and had no relatives in Mexico. The lawyer who handled his family's immigration status was suspended for failing to notify clients of immigration hearings; consequently, the family did not show up for the hearing that might have resolved the issue.

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What is Program

And Why Should I Be Involved In Program Planning?

Program is the League's reason for being, the basis for both education and action efforts. League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action. It includes both adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues for study that will lead to position and action. The League's philosophy or concepts of government provide the authorization for adoption of national, state and local program.



The League program process begins with selection and adoption, continues with study and discussion and culminates in action and change. It involves members of the League and members of the community and it cuts across government and League levels both horizontally and vertically. Local Leagues work simultaneously on local, state, national and (if applicable) regional program issues. Issues reflect community concerns and range from local park facilities to international trade, from childcare to nuclear waste disposal, from air pollution to arms control, from mental health to energy policy. Name it and the League, somewhere, is involved (from *In League*, the policy manual published by the LWVUS). Before Leagues at any level can take action, members must agree in broad terms on what they think about various aspects of a policy issues. This can be done in many ways: Group discussion and consensus, concurrence with an existing position from another League, questionnaires, or telephone polls. Study makes action possible. The process brings members knowledge about issues. Study leads to positions and positions can lead to action.

Both LWVUS AND LWVC plan program for the coming two years on an alternating bi-annual basis. Our local League does program planning annually, based on member input. For example, at the February meeting, local League members and the community will come together to discuss the 2011-2013 Program for LWVC (State League) to be adopted at the June 2011 Convention. Also, ideas will be gathered at this time for our local League to either study or take action on in the 2011-2012 program year.

At our February 8 meeting, we will review the current State and Local program (positions on issues) and decide whether we think these positions should be maintained, dropped, or re-studied. We will then look at ideas submitted from other Leagues for State program (this may take the form of recommending action on existing positions, or studying an issue for which there is yet no position). Our input to LWVC will then be reviewed by the board and then submitted, along with that of all the other local Leagues within the state and tabulated. LWVC board will receive the report from local Leagues and make a recommendation to be voted upon at the June 2011 Convention by the members. A new study is a time consuming and costly endeavor so, if we recommend a new study, we should be prepared to offer input as to how it is to be funded, and also to offer assistance in developing the study materials.

All League program originates with League members. The ideas that come from the members are collected and winnowed down to find those that fall within League Principles and are timely. League is a grass roots organization and is dependent on your participation and involvement. We want your ideas!

Charlene McAllister

Profiles in League

The Men in the League of Women Voters

Editor's Note: Howard Ennes, 93, recently contacted Membership Chair Jary Stavely and joined the Mendocino County League of Women Voters. This is the first of a series of interviews by VOTER Staff Member Susan Mitchell.

I came to the Mendocino Coast/Fort Bragg area after visiting annually for 25 years to see my stepdaughter. My late wife and I moved here in 1996.

I became a member of the LWV in Manhattan, NYC, because I simply wanted to express my solidarity. It so happens that I'd been an activist of sorts since my teens in Washington, DC, and had the good fortune to become a long-time acquaintance of Eleanor Roosevelt. That came about because I was a vice president of the American Youth Congress, a target of the Un-American Activities Committee.

This led to a career in government, specifically the US Public Health Service. Then, after Navy service in WWII came graduate work at the Yale School of Public Health and return to the USPHS on the Surgeon General's staff.

After government service, a stint in the Medical Department of Equitable Life Insurance Company; later as a VP in the chairman's office, there to set up a community services program for the sales staff of the corporation and to participate in health insurance industry-wide health planning and political affairs.

Meanwhile, I was president of the national professional association of public health educators and subsequently of the International health education NGO. Upon "retirement," a fair amount of community activities with bird clubs and historical societies.

All of this babbling is to underscore my conviction of the importance of citizen participation in community life — which, I believe, is central to the LWV. My participation currently, of course, is quite limited.

As to the question of "women" in the League name: Women, in reality, are essentially a majority of citizens; not only should they be heard, they should be listened to, they should exercise power.

Needless to say, personally, I love women. I would be nothing if it were not for my two wonderful wives and my daughters (not to overlook my son)! Many charming, intelligent, powerful women I have known have shaped my life. Now here on the coast my women friends sustain me.

In our current troubling times we critically need the leadership, the cohesion, the determination that the League of Women Voters is capable of providing — dependent, that is, on whether the fire-in-the-belly can be rekindled and stoked with the factual/reality, integrity, and humanity that women embody.



Howard Ennes

Howard Ennes

Calendar

- **Tuesday, January 11, 2011**—The County Grand Jury
Speakers—County Grand Jury Foreman Kathy Wylie and former County Grand Jurors Nancy Kleiber and Wendy Roberts
10 a.m. C.V. Starr Community Center, 300 S. Lincoln St., Fort Bragg
(9:30 am. coffee)
- **Tuesday, February 8, 2011**—State Program, National LWV Convention
Action Chair Barbara Matheson, National Delegate JoAn Blackstone
10 a.m. C.V. Starr Community Center, 300 S. Lincoln St., Fort Bragg
(9:30 a.m. coffee)
- **Friday, March 18, 2011**—Please Save the Date
Annual Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials
Annual Free Event Brings Voters Together With Elected Officials
Open to the Public
Location To Be Announced
- **Tuesday, April 12, 2011**—How to be a Participant in Local Government
“Inside Amy Goforth—A One-Act Radio Play” presented by
We Have No Budget Productions of Mendocino County
10 a.m. C.V. Starr Community Center, 300 S. Lincoln St., Fort Bragg
(9:30 a.m. coffee)
- **Tuesday, May 10, 2011**—Annual Meeting, Program To Be Announced
Hill House, Mendocino

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS?

Many of us are long-time supporters of the League of Women Voters, and it seems like the League was always part of our lives.

How did you become a member? Did someone ask you to join? Did something that happened in government spark your interest? We all have a story and we'd like to hear yours.

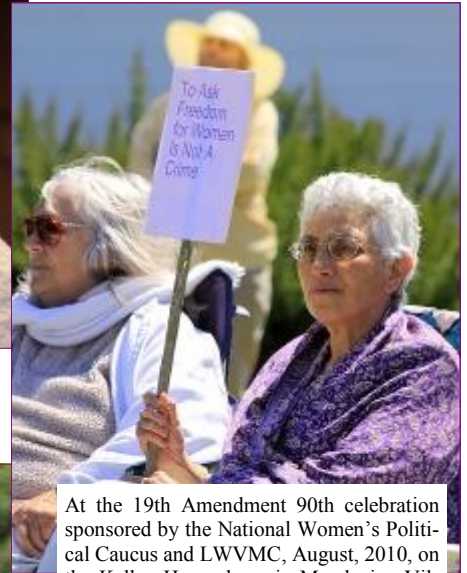
VOTER staff member Susan Mitchell is writing a feature and would like to include your story. Please e-mail her at jsmith@mcn.org or call at 707 937-4763.



Member Betty Stavely at LWV 90th Anniversary



College of the Redwoods Trustee and Member Barbara Rice, Fort Bragg Vice Mayor Dave Turner at LWV's Meet & Greet Your Elected Officials in March, 2010, in Fort Bragg.



At the 19th Amendment 90th celebration sponsored by the National Women's Political Caucus and LWVMC, August, 2010, on the Kelley House lawn in Mendocino Village. Audience members (above), speaker State Senator Noreen Evens (left—then a candidate) and LWV Member Val Muchowski (below) in suffragist wardrobe.



State Assemblyman Wes Chesbro at March, 2010, LWV Meet & Greet



Original lapel pin found in Betty Stavely's aunt's attic



Chef (and Member) Dorine Real's LWV 90th Celebration Cake Feb., 2010

Good-by 2010



Above, from left, College of the Redwoods Dean Geisce Ly, LWV Member Shirley Kirkpatrick and County Supt. of Schools Paul Tichinin at LWV Meet & Greet, March, 2010. At right Member Babs Levine and Superior Court Judge Ann Moorman, then a candidate.



Members review League's 90-year history in period costume, Feb., 2010



LWVMC VP Patricia Marien



COMMITTEE GEARS UP FOR 2011-2012 LWV NOMINATIONS

The League's Nominating Committee seeks your help to nominate board members and off-board chairs for 2011-2012.

If you would like to nominate an officer or member of the board, please contact Charlene McAllister (charmac@mcn.org or 937-4463) or B. Bowen (casparbeck@comcast.net or 962-1602) by March 1, 2011.

Board members serve on one of three committees: Program/Action, Facilities or Voter Service. Program/Action committee members plan

programs for monthly meetings and our annual Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials event or participate in Barbara Matheson's action program.

The Facilities Committee books meeting rooms and helps with refreshments. Membership and the VOTER Newsletter are part of the Facilities Committee.

Voter Service Committee members participate with Chair JoAn Blackstone's coordination of candidate forums, presentation of State Proposition pros and cons and distribution of voter ser-

vice materials throughout the county.

Our board is a friendly group. Everybody gets support and we enjoy the good will of many officials and staff members in city, county and state government. We help each other and find ways to make our programs work even with busy family life and travel.

All board meetings are open to members and we encourage you to come and see how our board operates. We think you will like what you see and we hope you might consider serving on the board or helping us find

new board members. Please contact Jane Person for date, time and place for upcoming board meetings.

Names are placed in nomination in April prior to elections at the May Annual Meeting. All terms are for one year and the year runs from September through the second week of May.

In addition to committees, the president may appoint a member to coordinate League of Women Voter observers who attend public meetings and share observations with League members.

President's Message

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You can almost guess the status of the bill. The Senate has delayed voting on this legislation, facing GOP objections. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala) has called it a "nightmare act" that would give millions of immigrants amnesty and provide safe harbor for some with criminal records (actually those with criminal records would not be eligible under provisions of the act). Others opposing the bill will not vote for it because they believe Democrats are pushing it to please Latino voters. The delay, according to *The Times*, puts off but probably will not prevent the demise of the measure.

Meanwhile, kids like Hector are routinely caught up in immigration sweeps. I hope Elena was able to become a citizen, go to a UC school, and find work as a translator, but somehow I doubt it.

Young people who could become outstanding citizens in our country constantly have to look over their shoulder because, although the Obama administration said it steers away from arresting illegal immigrants who might be eligible for legal status under the Dream Act, Janet Napolitano, homeland security secretary has said that immigration authorities would deport any illegal immigrant they detected.

Sometimes one is tempted to think that Mark Twain was far too generous in his assessment of Congress.

Jane Person

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 for 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: LWVMC

P.O. Box 1128

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

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www.smartvoter.org

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**Library of Congress
Legislation Status
www.thomas.loc.gov**

**Mendocino County
Public Television
Meeting Coverage
www.mendocoasttv.org**

**U.S. Census Interactive Map Widget
<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>**

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.