



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

MARCH 2013

JANE PERSON, PRESIDENT

CHARLENE McALLISTER, EDITOR

LWV INVITES PUBLIC TO MEET, GREET ELECTED OFFICIALS

By Barbara Matheson—Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman and 4th District Supervisor Dan Gjerde were the first elected officials to reply to the League's Meet and Greet invitation to participate in a reception Friday, March 15, at the Caspar Community Center from 5 - 7 p.m.



County Supervisor Dan Gjerde, then Fort Bragg City Councilperson (left), and Mendocino Coast Health Care District Treasurer Tom Birdsell at the League's 2011 Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials reception.

More than 60 local, county and state officials received invitations. This is an excellent opportunity for the public and community leaders to meet their elected officials in an informal, non-political setting. As in the past, there will be no agenda and no speeches—just time for face-to-face conversation.

The event is free and open to the public. If you can help with food, please arrive a few minutes early so your plate can be added to the *hors d'oeuvre* table. We had more than 100 people attend last year's event. We hope for an even bigger turnout this year.



Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman talks with members of the public at the LWV 2011 Meet and Greet.

LEAGUE SETS CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

League President Jane Person this week announced a public candidate forum Friday, April 12, from 6-7:30 p.m. at Fort Bragg's Town Hall for three candidates who filed to run in a special election to fill a vacant seat on the Fort Bragg City Council.

Derek Hoyle, Heidi Kraut and Madeleine Melo are candidates

for the May 7 vote-by-mail-only election.

The election will fill the City Council seat left vacant after the election of Councilperson Dan Gjerde to the County Board of Supervisors. The council term ends in December, 2014.

Mendocino Coast Community Television will tape the forum for

delayed broadcast.

Hoyle currently is chair of the Fort Bragg Planning Commission; Kraut is manager of the Mendocino Coast Hospice Thrift Store in the Boatyard Center; and Melo founded the Jere Melo Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit established to educate the public about safety and health in forests and open land.

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President's Message

I read an article in the Sunday paper (Feb. 24) then glanced out the window to check the skies for flying pigs. Congress has actually begun considering gun legislation.

This gun legislation may include expanded background checks for gun buyers and increased penalties for those who buy guns for criminals. Negotiations between Sens. Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Charles Schumer (D-NY) may result in a bill that would expand background checks to nearly all gun purchases, according to the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* article. (Another stunner: Interparty cooperation.)

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), chairman of the Judiciary Committee, as well as many others, supports reinstating the assault weapon ban that expired in 2004 and tightening limits on the capacity of some ammunition magazines, and there may be some legislation here.

LWVUS sent a letter on Feb. 12 to the Senate Judiciary Committee urging Congress “to pass common sense solutions to the gun violence...” The letter calls for Congress “to adopt legislation that will close the gun show loophole (no background checks needed), ban assault weapons, place limits on high capacity ammunition magazine size, increase penalties for straw purchases of guns and fund research and reporting on gun violence in America.”

It may be that after several decades in which gun legislation was given zero chance of consideration, as *Washington Post* columnist E.J. Dionne wrote, “the unthinkable is on the verge of happening.”

In another development, the U.S. Supreme Court has begun to hear oral arguments in the case of *Shelby County, Ala. v. Holder*. This case challenges the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, passed by overcoming a filibuster in 1965. It was under Section 5 that the League challenged restrictive voter photo ID laws in South Carolina and Texas just last year, and the VRA was the basis for challenges to a cut back in early voting hours in Florida, and to the Texas redistricting plan.



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LWVUS and LWV South Carolina have joined in *amicus* brief in support of the VRA, which has such important ramifications for the League's work nationwide. To underscore that message LWVUS staff members and others held a rally in front of the Supreme Court on Feb. 27.

The League calls the Voting Rights Act "the jewel in the crown of Federal elections laws." LWVUS and Leagues nationwide are working to save it. The Mendocino League has sent a letter to local papers in support of it.

Jane Person

2013 LWVMC Calendar

Board Meeting 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, Mar. 5, Fort Bragg Library
Library Meeting Room

**Friday, Mar. 15— Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials
Reception 5-7 p.m.
Caspar Community Center**

Pease bring a potluck savory appetizer

Board Meeting 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, Apr. 2, Fort Bragg Library
Library Meeting Room

**Tuesday, Apr. 9— General Meeting 10 a.m.
Caspar Community Center
Sustainability in the Community
Speakers: Miles Gordon—Mendocino County Food Action Plan
Charles Cresson Wood—Energy Independence
and the Local Transition Towns Movement
Coffee at 9:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday, May 14— Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Speaker: C.R. Trustee Barbara Rice
The Future of College of the Redwoods
Time and details to be Announced**

All League meetings are open to the public at no charge

All Board Meetings are open to League members

HONORING AND REMEMBERING JEAN MORLEY

Jean Morley loved nature, music, art, birds, botany, paleontology, public parks and good food. She also respected good governance and was an active League member for more than 50 years.

Jean died Christmas night at Mendocino Coast District Hospital. She was 94.

She was born in Providence, R.I. Her father, Charles Ward Hussey, was a structural engineer whose work on railway stations, highway bridges and oil refineries took his family to Yonkers, Argentina, Paris, and Chicago. Her mother, Agnes Gardiner Shaw Hussey, was a biology teacher from Iowa. Her parents taught Jean and her brother Ward to appreciate nature. It was Jean who introduced her husband Art to bird watching and taught him how to canoe in the Potomac River.

Jean earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Wellesley College and a master's in public administration from the University of Chicago. She taught junior high civics before moving to Washington, D.C. where she worked for Social Security in the Labor Department. Later, she was a personnel classifier at the U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare where the first Secretary of the then-new department was Oveta Culp Hobby, first commanding officer of the Women's Army Corps and former president of the Texas League of Women Voters.

Jean met Art Morley in 1953 at a square dance in the basement of a Unitarian church in Washington, D.C. Art was stationed in Washington at the Navy's gun fire control technical school. Jean, a lively red-haired lady, came to San Diego to visit him in 1956 when Chief Petty Officer Art Morley worked at the Naval Station gunnery school.

Jean quit her D.C. job and moved to San Diego where she married Art and found work as a personnel classifier at the Naval Hospital. The couple spent spare time in nature—in the desert and mountains. They were active in Audubon, California Native Plant Society and Sierra Club. Jean began to paint landscapes and joined the League of Women Voters where she was a League observer at City Council and Board of Supervisors meetings. She also joined a citizens group interested in city planning which formed the Park Standards Study Committee to establish park standards in the city of San Die-

go. The committee's efforts were successful after initial fierce opposition from the San Diego City Council.

After more than 20 years in the Navy that included service in Asia, Art was assigned shore duty and given a choice of Michigan or Louisiana. Jean voted for Ann Arbor and Art worked there as a Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor for three years. The Morleys were active in Audubon and the Michigan Parks Association.

The couple moved back to Southern California where Art started a new career at California State Parks. He earned the rank of State Parks Ranger and worked at Palomar Mountain State Park (4 years) and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (14 years).

Their Anza-Borrego home was a park trailer and Jean learned everything she could about the area—the plants, wildlife, paleontology and hiking trails. She joined a citizens group that helped raise \$1 million for the park's first visitor center, then served as a volunteer there, typing site sheets and building databases for archeological research,

wildlife and plants.

The Morleys moved to Fort Bragg, Art's home town, in 1993 to be with her mother-in-law. Jean was active in Audubon, California Native Plant Society, League of Women Voters, the plein air artists group, portrait artists group, and Mendocino Art Center, where many of her works appeared in exhibitions. She signed favorite seascapes and deserts with her initials in the classic style of botanical illustrators.

She never talked publicly about party politics but carried on a lifelong appreciation of good governance. For years, she served as our League observer at the local health care district meetings. Political reporter Connie Korbel often said Jean spent more time at public meetings than local reporters.

She never stopped painting and never stopped coming to League meetings. Her thoughtful service as nominating committee chair brought many of our current officers and directors onto our League board.

She is survived by her husband, Art, a League member; nephew Thomas W. Hussey, Alexandria, VA; and nieces Carolyn A. Bourdow and Wendy E. Addison, both of Midlothian, VA.



Jean Morley portrait by Donovan Holt

ACTION

BY BARBARA MATHESON

OPINION

The LWVUS Board has established its action priorities for 2013. The top priority is Money in Politics and the many facets of Election Reform. In addition, the national League will concentrate on Climate Change, Gun Safety and Immigration.

Decisions were based on

what issues are likely to come before the 113th Congress, opportunities to make an impact, member interest, and resources available to manage these priorities effectively. The Board will continue to review these issues throughout the year, and make changes if necessary.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA—STORIES WE ARE FOLLOWING

SACRAMENTO—LWVCA announced February 6 the state League joined a coalition to shield the state's landmark environmental law from proposed reforms that would limit public input into land use planning, threaten public health and weaken environmental protections.

The coalition seeks to fight an attempt to weaken the California Environmental Quality Act enacted by Gov. Ronald Reagan 43 years ago.

Coalition members include representatives from civic, conservation, environmental justice, labor, preservation and public health groups. A full list of support organizations is at www.ceqaworks.org

Our VOTER updates in the next few months will include reports on this story as well as our continuing coverage of money in politics.



State LWV Convention Set For May 17-19 in San Jose

We encourage and urge League members to attend the California LWV convention at the Hayes Mansion in San Jose this spring. It's a way for delegates to vote on important issues and a means to share leadership skills and look at the organization's future. The public is invited to attend workshops and observe open sessions. For early details, visit

<http://ca.lwv.org/event/2013/may/event-may-2013-convention-myleague>

Profiles in League

Doris Hammer Just Keeps Going and Going

Editor's note: We realized very early on in planning our publication that our League members are interesting people with interesting stories. We work so hard in our organization and in the community and get so involved in busyness that we don't often take time to listen. Staff writer Susan Mitchell is on a mission to tell our stories. It turns out, you never know just how interesting that person is when you sit down next to him or her at a League meeting.

By Susan Mitchell

From an early age, Doris Hammer was interested in community action and public policy.

As a young girl growing up in New Jersey, she entered the contest for best essay about the Fourth of July and won. She participated in student government and ran for student body president in high school (she was narrowly beaten by "the jock" who ran against her).

Although she grew up during the Depression, she was unaware of its effects because her father was employed by the Prudential Insurance Company, a job he held his entire working life. He lived to be 106. Her mother raised Doris and three siblings and didn't work outside the home.

By the time Doris was in high school, World War II was in full swing. Both her father and brother were interested in track and field, and because the town's men had gone off to war, Doris managed the boys track and field team. For this service, she received the first varsity letter awarded to a girl, a prized possession she still cherishes.

When she was 10, she and her brother (18 months

older) traveled by train, ferry and subway from their small New Jersey town to the 1939 World's Fair in Flushing Meadows. They saw the Trylon and Perisphere ("The World of Tomorrow"). The sphere housed a diorama called "Democracy" a utopian city of the future, another inspiration for young Doris in her lifelong interest in the democratic process.

While in high school she was a student member of the Foreign Policy Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the American public about the world. She traveled into Manhattan on her own to attend these lectures.

Doris refers to herself as an "academic tramp." She graduated from high school at a young age. She was too young to work and her family didn't have enough money to send her to a university for four years. So she attended Montclair State Teachers College for a year, then (at the age of 18) got a job in Newark, New Jersey, at Westinghouse Corporation where she worked for several years.

She worked and saved money to go to Rutgers University Extension at night. Due to lifelong sinus difficulties, she transferred to the University of Arizona where she thrived on dry weather, got



Doris Hammer on the deck of the Westport Hotel at the 2012 June LWV Board Meeting. She wears a 1940 campaign button from her mom's collection. The button says: Our Next President Wendell Lewis Willkie. A quick fact check turned up the candidate's name was Lewis Wendell Willkie.

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married and gave birth to her first child. Her husband was hired by the Civil Service at the Naval Ordnance Test Station (now known as NAWS - Naval Air Weapons Station) in China Lake, CA, after he graduated.

China Lake, in Kern County, is in the middle of the Mojave Desert. Doris and her family lived there from 1950 to 1978. That unique location meant that Doris' children grew up camping in Death Valley every Thanksgiving and having Mt. Whitney in their back yard. Like many women, Doris' education was put on the back burner while she raised her family. Well into her fifties, she earned her bachelor's degree and a Master's in Public Policy while she held down a full-time job in Sacramento.

Doris has two daughters: Helen (a doctor of internal medicine and hospitalist at Kaiser in Santa Rosa) and Susan, called "Peb" by her family, after the Flintstone cartoon character Pebbles Flintstone (Doris and the fictional Wilma Flintstone were pregnant at the same time). Peb is severely developmentally disabled and lives in a care facility in Sacramento. When Peb was born, services for developmentally disabled were limited and most of those were parent-run non-profits.

Doris went from making cupcakes for fundraisers to leadership roles in organizations for the handicapped. She served as president of the Indian Wells Valley Association for the Retarded for a number of years and was instrumental in creating the Kern Regional Center. Regional Centers are a hybrid: Authorized and funded by the state but contracted to be run by non-profits. When the legislature created the Regional Center System, Kern County was left out. A group organized, became a non-profit and successfully lobbied the state to create the Kern Regional Center. Doris served as president of the non-profit Kern Council for Services to the Retarded. Peb cut the ribbon along with State Sen. Walter W. Stiern at the opening of the Kern Regional Center.

Doris also refers to herself as a "public policy junky." While living in China Lake, she was the first woman president of the local Little League Association. At the urging of Little League parents, she ran for a position on the local school board against eleven men and won. She served on the China Lake Elementary School Board and after a new district formation, served as president of the Sierra Sands Unified School Board.

Her enduring interest in government took her to Sacramento after she left China Lake in 1978. She worked for the California School Boards Association, a non-profit that provides services to school boards. After retirement and a move to Mendocino in the 1990's, she won election to the Mendocino Unified School Board and served eight years. She has served as an elected school board member for a total of 24 years. Doris served five years as LWVMC budget committee chair and currently is League observer of Fort Bragg City Council, Fort Bragg Unified School District Board, Mendocino Unified School District Board and Mendocino Fire Department Board.

It seems as though Doris Hammer is always going places—literally. She has biked across the continental United States—west to east and south to north. She has hiked—alone—the entire Appalachian Trail accomplishing this feat in numerous segments over 6 years. She has climbed Mt. Whitney "too many times to count." She has traveled to Antarctica where she zodiac-ed into blue channels of ice. She took a Sierra Club trip to Spitsbergen, Norway, where she traveled on an ice cutter to the Arctic Circle then toured all the Scandinavian countries and Russia. She has hiked the Chilkoot Trail in the Klondike (which goes from Alaska to British Columbia), the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru, and the Milford Track in New Zealand, just to name a few. She's taken the Trans-Siberian Railway from Russia to China. She traveled to Nepal to the base camp at Annapurna, continuing on to India and Italy. She visited South Africa and drove the "sag wagon" (support van) for a bicycle trip from the east to the west coast.

The VOTER staff took one look at this Bucket List and voted to give her Wonder Woman status.

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. Dues for 2012-2013 cover the period between September, 2012 and September, 2013.

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 _____

Name/Names: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to: LWV Mendocino County
And mail to: LWVMC
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Fort Bragg, CA 95437

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**Television Coverage
of Listed Public Meetings
In Mendocino County
can be viewed at**

**Mendocino Coast Television
Community Access Television**

www.mendocosttv.org

www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org

www.ca.lwv.org

www.lwv.org

**Status of the bills in Congress
www.thomas.loc.gov**

www.smartvoter.org/ca/state/

**To check status of mailed-in ballot:
www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/cgi-bin/**

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**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**

Sources of Information about Money in Politics

www.moneyoutvotersin.org

<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Candidates/>

<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=14>

<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Measures/list.aspx?session=2011>

http://ca.lwv.org/sites/ca.lwv.org/files/Campaign%20Finance%20FACTS_1.pdf

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