



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

May, 2011

Jane Person, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR JONES LOOKS TO FUTURE AT LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MAY 10 MEETING

Marie Jones, Community Development Director of the City of Fort Bragg, will be guest speaker at the League's Annual May Business Meeting and Luncheon Tuesday, May 10 at the Hill House in Mendocino Village.

Jones has worked closely with city and county officials to plan environmentally responsible development of local coastal trails and the Georgia Pacific Mill property which currently is on the market.

The annual business

meeting of the League of Women Voters brings members together to approve the organization's budget, confirm positions on local social and political issues and elect officers and four board of director members. Three additional board members are appointed by the new board before the start of 2011-2012 activities that begin in September.

A quorum of members is required at the May meeting and it is a chance for League members to give direction to the new board. The meeting starts at

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 10, 2011, at the Hill House in Mendocino. Luncheon is at 11:30 a.m. and Ms. Jones will speak at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Please join us at this important meeting. Bring the meeting kit published in the April VOTER and sent as a separate attachment with this VOTER.

A luncheon reservation form (with menu choice) is on Page 5. Please send your reservation and check to Patricia Marien (at the address on the form) by May 4.

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Look for Redistricting Updates from the LWVMC this summer and Save the Date, September 20, 2011, for kickoff of next year's activities

LWV STUDY EXAMINES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ROLE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

At the April LWV meeting, League Member Ken Matheson announced plans for the local organization to monitor a LWVUS study about the role of the federal government in public education.

Local and state Leagues currently are discussing the

study in order to come to consensus on a number of questions involving school choice, accountability, teacher quality, goals, standards and funding. The study coincides with recent Congressional debates over the reauthorization of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Educa-

tion Act.

Matheson will lead the local study group that will make a presentation to our membership in the upcoming year. If you would like to take part in this study at the local level, please contact Matheson at 937-5164 or ken@mcn.org



Ken Matheson

2010-2011 Officers Board of Directors

President 964-6351	Jane Person janeperson@hotmail.com
Vice President 964-2781	Dorine Real dorine@mcn.org
Vice President 964-4942	Patricia Marien paprika@mcn.org
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Pat Dunbar 937-3409	Director pdunbar@mcn.org
Babs Levine 937-0629	Director babs@wildbluec.net
Barbara Matheson 937-5164	Action ken@mcn.org
Jary Stavely 964-4942	Membership jestavely@mcn.org

Off-Board Chairpersons

Charlene McAllister 937-4463	VOTER editor charmac@mcn.org
Doris Hammer	Budget Committee
Betty Barber	Nominating Committee

VOTER Staff—Barbara Auerbach, Becky Bowen, Susan Eveleth, Louis Hough, Susan Mitchell, Jane Person

ACTION

BY BARBARA

OPINION

The LWVMC recently sent a letter to the College of the Redwoods Board of Trustees asking that the process for hiring a new president be open and transparent. We also asked the Trustees to consider appointing a citizens advisory committee to help establish selection criteria, develop questions for candidates, and (most importantly) to help write a description of the district that would include the unique qualities and needs of each community. Thus far we have had no response from the College.

Calendar

- Tuesday, May 10, 2011—Annual Meeting, Luncheon 10:30 a.m.
Hill House, Mendocino Village
Luncheon (see menu choice and reservation, page 5)
Program: Marie Jones, Community Development Director, City of Fort Bragg
- Summer Break
- Please Hold the Date: Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011
2011-2012 Kickoff Meeting
Speaker: Dave Miller, MUSC Superintendent
Time and Location To Be Announced

LWVC SET FOR STATE CONVENTION IN MAY

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara, Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian (R-San Luis Obispo) and Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Fiona Ma (D-San Francisco) are among speakers booked for the State League convention beginning May 13 at Ventura's Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Workshops include "Exposing Secrets of

Local Government," "Is Local Campaign Finance Reform Possible?" and "Legislative Reform: Has the Time Finally Come?"

For information visit www.ca.lwv.org and click on State Convention, May, 2011.

Our League can send two voting delegates and workshops and speeches are open to all members.





Dorine Real-
Jeannette Jefferson
Lee Tepper—Mr. Eel



Yvonne Armstrong-The Knitter

Photo by Suzie Frew-Harris, Renfrew Enterprises



KOZT's Joe Regelski-
Mr. Manners

The Cast



Teresa Hurray—Amy Goforth

Photo by Larry R. Wagner

What Came Out Of “Inside Amy Goforth”

Editor's Note: At the April meeting, League members heard “Inside Amy Goforth,” an original one-act radio play about local politics, produced by We Have No Budget Productions of Mendocino County. Dorine Real led a talk afterwards about how to participate in local government and here are notes from that discussion. As always, the talk raised questions as well as points. If you would like to follow up on any of these topics in future programs, please contact Dorine Real.



KOZT's Russ Faust-
Chairman Bob



David Alden—Bob,
the board member



Barbara Auerbach—
County Counsel
Olivia Santos



Charlene McAllister—
Helen James



Suzie Frew-Harris—
The Special District
Administrator

- Where do politicians come from? Where do they start?
- How do you find good leaders? How do you nurture them?
- If there is a problem—or a crisis—that’s when good leaders emerge.
- What if we deconstructed government and started all over? What services would local government provide?
- What part does education play in good governance?
- What is so special about special districts and why are there so many?
- Why are so many “elected” local officials appointed?
- What is the burden of participating in local government and how do you address the time it takes, the difficulties in budgeting, teaching leaders how to be leaders, the overwhelming paperwork that weighs on local officials and the lack of civility in public meetings?
- How do we follow the money and how do we use local government budgets to meet a mission?
- How do you connect the dots between the voters and services provided by special districts?
- On the tax issues: What are we paying for? What’s in it for me? What’s the difference between a parcel tax and a bond issue? How do you learn about these things?
- Why is it so hard to get things done?
- How do you involve young people in good governance?
- What is the cost of electing a local official vs. appointing a local official?
- With mail-in ballots, what’s secret about our secret ballot?
- Can we as League members make a difference?

The League Program Committee thanks The Coast KOZT-FM for helping us connect a pursuit of good governance with the magic of radio and the theater of the imagination. Thanks to News Director Joe Regelski, Morning Star Russ Faust, and Extraordinary Organizer Sam Russell who cheerfully pitched in to help us.

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

www.ca.lwv.org

www.lwv.org

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.

Luncheon Reservation Form
League of Women Voters Annual Luncheon Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2011
The Hill House, Mendocino

Business Meeting 10:30 a.m.
Lunch followed by Guest Speaker, Marie Jones,
Fort Bragg Community Development Director

YOUR NAME _____

Your phone number _____

Please order one of the following entrees:

_____ Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, mushroom sauce, vegetables

_____ Chinese salad with prawns

_____ Roasted vegetable pasta

Dessert—freshly-baked cookies

Please make check for \$20 payable to LWVMC and send by May 4, 2011, to:

Patricia Marien
205 North Harold Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Please contact P. Marien if you have questions: 964-4942 paprika@mcn.org

Will you consider bringing a guest to this luncheon? Someone who may have and interest in League activities or who might want to join our League.