



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

May, 2014

Jane Person, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

LOCAL LEAGUE TO HOST TWO CANDIDATE FORUMS FOR COUNTY CLERK, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

By Carol Czadek

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County will hold public forums in May for candidates running for two county offices in the June 3 gubernatorial primary election.

Candidates for Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder will appear at the forum Thurs., May 15, from 6-7:30 p.m. in Fort Bragg's Town Hall, corner of Main and Laurel Streets. Susan Ranochak, who has served in the position since 2008, is the incumbent running against Robin Sun-

beam, a registered nurse from Ukiah. League board member Pat Dunbar will moderate and President Jane Person will be timekeeper.

The candidate forum for Superintendent of County Schools will be held at Town Hall in Fort Bragg on Tues., May 20, from 6-7:30 p.m. Incumbent Paul Tichinin did not file for re-election. The county website lists the following candidates and occupations for this race: Kathy Wylie, executive director; Warren C. Galletti, K-12 school adminis-

trator; and Paul Joens-Poulton, associate superintendent of the Mendocino County Office of Education.

League member Sharon DiMauro will moderate and Jane Person will be timekeeper.

The format for both forums is: Opening, and closing statement and answers to written questions from the audience.

We need help at both forums to set up and collect audience questions. Please join us, help, and hear what the candidates have to say.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S PAGE JANE PERSON	2
LWV MESSAGES BARBARA MATHESON, PATRICIA MARIEN	3
COUNTY MACS BY BARBARA AUERBACH	4
LWV PROFILE NANCY KLEIBER BY SUSAN MITCHELL	5
FRACKING BY SHARON GILLIGAN	6
JUNE 3 PRIMARY	7
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION	8

**Please
Hold the Date**

**Tuesday, Sept. 16
LWV Kickoff**

**Harbor Lite Lodge,
Fort Bragg**

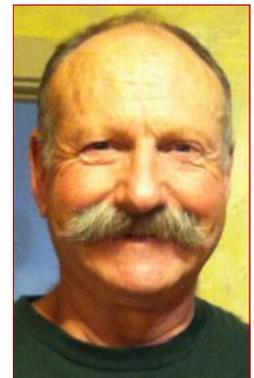
Program to Include Climate Change Presentation by C. Acker, Potluck Luncheon

Local League Members to Adopt Budget, Elect Directors At Annual Business Meeting Tuesday, May 13 in Caspar

By Jane Person

After a short business meeting at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 13 at the Caspar Community Center, members will hear a presentation by Charlie Acker, of Elk, about climate control. Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m. Officers and directors will be elected during the business meeting and Mr. Acker's presentation will be followed by a potluck luncheon.

The meeting is open to the public, so please bring a dish that serves 8. During lunch, members are invited to participate in Table Talk to discuss speakers and programs for next year that deal with issues for emphasis chosen for 2014-2015: Sustainability, money in politics, and the environment.



Charlie Acker

**2013-2014 Officers
Board of Directors**

President **Jane Person**
964-6351 janeperson@hotmail.com

Vice President **Dorine Real**
964-2781 dorine@mcn.org

Vice President **Patricia Marien**
964-4942 paprika@mcn.org

Secretary **Cindy Plank**
357-4272 theplanks@yahoo.com

Treasurer **Lee Tepper**
964-2781 eel@mcn.org

Carol Czadek **Voter Service**
964-9271 norcoel@mcn.org

JoAn Blackstone **Director**
937-2481 joanblackstone@comcast.net

Kitty Brown **Director**
964-8982

Pat Dunbar **Director**
937-3409 pdunbar@mcn.org

Babs Levine **Director**
937-0629 babs.levine@gmail.com

Barbara Matheson **Action**
937-5164 ken@mcn.org

Jary Stavely **Membership**
964-4942 jstavely@mcn.org

Off-Board Chairpersons

Nancy Kleiber **Budget**
Betty Barber **Nominating**

VOTER editor **Charlene McAllister**
937-4463 charm@mcn.org

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

President's Message

Here's something to think about. While the current drought is the worst since records began being kept, far worse droughts have occurred in California. Called mega-droughts, these dry periods have lasted 10 or 20 years in a row in the last thousand years, according to scientists who study tree rings and other evidence. A *Press Democrat* article (1/27/14) said the most severe "make the Dust Bowl of the 1930s look tame..." One began about 850 A.D. and lasted 240 years. Fifty years after that one ended another began, lasting 180 years. In comparison, the current one has gone on for three years. (But don't start counting "237 more years to go" just yet.)

Moreover, a severe drought in the Aegean area beginning about 1200 B.C. brought down most great nations and city states of the time (including Troy), thus creating a migration of peoples and bringing on for several centuries what some archaeologists called Dark Ages.

According to the United Nations, by 2025 two thirds of the world's population won't have a secure water supply (*The Week*, 12/27/13). But perhaps we can look elsewhere for fresh water.

The article cited above says that "vast reserves of freshwater have been discovered beneath the seabed of continental shelves of Australia, China, North America, and South Africa." For a long while scientists have known about freshwater springs occurring offshore; indeed, freshwater may lie under the sea floor for up to 100 kilometers in places. Ironically many of the findings come from sea floor water studies conducted for gas and oil exploration.

Australian hydrogeologist Vincent Post tells *Science Daily.com* that the reserves were formed hundreds of thousands of years ago, when sea levels were much lower, thanks to glaciers, and much of the ocean floor was dry land. For thousands of years rain and river water seeped into this land. When the glaciers retreated and sea water rushed in, the ground water, now off shore, remained fresh because, according to Andrew Alden (geologist writing for *KQED Science*), the forces trying to push it out (density differences) are small compared to gravity forces which put the groundwater in.

In other words, fresh water lying above sea level on land would have the pressure to push aside the denser, salty water of the ocean once it reaches that level.

Continued on Page 3

President's Message Continued from Page 2

Fresh water could be pumped ashore. This, of course, would involve massive (and expensive) scientific exploration off California's shores. Perhaps the oil and gas industries, especially those involved in fracking, could share the costs.

The water supplier for Monterey has plans for a desalination plant that would treat sea water by drilling sideways under the seafloor from a land-based rig and pump salt water from beneath the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Perhaps there is enough freshwater from this site that could bring the desalinization costs down.

Jane Person

Editor's Note: Speakers Marie Jones (city of Fort Bragg) and representatives of NHUDG (Noyo Headlands Unified Design Group) discussed local water issues at the April 8 LWV meeting. Discussion about water issues and climate control will continue at the program portion of the May 13 League meeting (see Page 1 of this VOTER).



Hospitality Opportunities Open the Door To Meet Our Members, Help Our League

Patricia Marien, who is currently our hospitality host/meeting set-up person, is wishing for a co-worker.

Duties are simple, plus it is a great way to get to know and have some fun with other members:

Arrive at meetings a bit earlier at 9 a.m., bustle around and chat

Set up food and drink, perhaps a few chairs

Stay 20 minutes after meeting for small clean up, bustle around and chat



We have six morning meetings a year at Caspar, and two or three volunteers could make it easier to cover each one.

Contact Patricia at 964-4942 or email paprika@mcn.org, and sign up for whichever month you

A Message of Thanks from Action Chair Barbara Matheson

A big thanks to all for help and support for this year's LWV Meet & Greet Your Elected Officials. We had, according to our records at the front table, more than 95 people attending. It could be a little higher since we miss some people who slip in the other door. The food was delicious and everyone seemed to be enjoying the conversation. Special thanks to Jary Stavely for manning the front table; to Grant Miller and Ken Matheson for holding down the bar throughout the event; to Babs Levine for the beautiful flower arrangements; to Doris Hammer, who although not on the board, always helps setup, cleanup, and brings something for the table; to Becky Bowen who takes pictures; to Susan and John Mitchell and to Mary Kay and Boyd Hight for their donation of wine; to Patricia Marien for managing the food table; to Jane Person for arranging the special presentation and leading us in remembering our fallen hero, Deputy Del Fiorentino; to Cindy and Jim Plank for helping setup and cleanup, and to all who brought food.

*Know Your County***LWV REVIEWS ROLE OF MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCILS
BY BARBARA AUERBACH****What is a municipal advisory council?**

A municipal advisory council acts as a conduit of information and recommendations between an unincorporated community and the board of supervisors. It provides information on public health, safety, welfare, public works and planning.

How is a municipal advisory council established?

The board of supervisors of any county may by resolution establish and provide funds for the operation of a municipal advisory council for any unincorporated area in the county. The authorization is the result of a 1971 legislative statute, **California Government Code Section 31010**. The council, consisting of local citizens, may be appointed by the board of supervisors or elected by the community.

Are members of a municipal advisory committee required to take an ethics course or oath?

Members of a municipal advisory council are not considered a legislative body and do not have to take an oath. However, pursuant to bylaws created by the council, the council will be required to comply with the provisions of the Brown Act and Conflict of Interest mandates. The Brown Act provides that public commissions, boards and councils and the other public agencies in the state of California exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly. The purpose of the Conflict of Interest statutes is to eliminate temptation, avoid the appearance of impropriety, and limit the possibility of improper personal influence on a public official's decisions.

How does the board of supervisors utilize the municipal advisory council?

The council holds public meetings, gathers opinions from the community, and advises the board as to community opinions. The board of supervisors will periodically look to the advisory council for advice or feedback on services rendered by the local government. The board of supervisors may request that the advisory council draft or revise the community's portion of the county general plan such as land use planning.

Can a municipal advisory council implement its position directly?

A municipal advisory council is a governing body without fiscal authority or administrative organization. The council must work with the board of supervisors to implement the county goals.

North Coast municipal advisory councils.

Westport and Gualala are unincorporated communities with municipal advisory councils. The community of Mendocino, although unincorporated, does not have an advisory council.

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.**

LEAGUE PROFILES—NANCY KLEIBER

BY SUSAN MITCHELL

Nancy Kleiber grew up in Van Nuys and says she was “a San Fernando valley girl” before the term was coined. Her father, a U.S. Navy World War II veteran, moved the family from Ohio to California to find work in the burgeoning west coast defense industry. “Growing up in the post-war period, my first sense of the power and potential of politics was the formation of the United Nations embodying our aspirations for peace and world development.” Her heroine was Eleanor Roosevelt.

Nancy received a BA in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley in 1964 and an MA in International Relations from Columbia University in 1969. At Columbia University, she participated in student political activity. “During one sit-in, graduate students took over the Architecture Building,” she says. She was rounded up by police and shared a ride in the paddy wagon with Abbie Hoffman. She says her education in “California’s excellent public schools taught me ‘politics’ is not a dirty word, but the lifeblood of the ‘polis.’ Beyond a citizen’s rights and duties is the opportunity to be part of a ‘polis,’ to participate in and feel a sense of community larger than ourselves.”

Because she was inspired by John F. Kennedy’s challenge to “Ask not what your country can do for you...,” her graduate work focused on International Relations and Latin American Studies. But “before an employment opportunity came along in the international arena” she became involved with a movement to unionize California farm workers. “My years as a volunteer with the United Farm Workers (UFW) reinforced my belief that politics and non-violent political action can effect societal changes improving our daily lives and sense of well being.” She worked with Cesar Chavez and his family at the UFW Delano headquarters and subsequently relocated with that group to the small Central Valley town of Keene, CA, where the UFW had set up operations in a vacant tuberculosis hospital, “La Paz of the Tehachapis.” Nancy was involved in a political movement that gained worldwide attention for the lettuce and grape boycotts, to name just two of the actions the UFW initiated to organize and support farm workers.

By 1974, Nancy decided she needed to earn more “than subsistence.” She started work with the California Department of Industrial Relations during Jerry Brown’s first term as Governor. She says Gov. Brown broadened recruitment and established “career ladders” for support staff in state government. Clerical workers were encouraged to attend college and aspire to managerial positions. As a result, promotions in the Industrial Relations Department started from within the department, rather than from recruitment of “white, male, over-50 retirees looking for a second career,” she says. Now, many current senior personnel are minority women.

She retired in 2006 and came to Fort Bragg where she maintained a vacation home. Her love of the Mendocino Coast began many years ago when she and a friend came here from Berkeley to visit Helen Stanley in Surfwood. She learned about the League from Ms. Stanley, a long-time member. Nancy joined the League shortly after she became a year-round resident and has been an active participant in meetings and events, even during her service on the County Grand Jury and during the time she served as President of the Board of Directors of the Mendocino Music Festival. She has agreed to serve on the League’s Board of Directors next year, much to our delight.



Nancy Kleiber came to the community as a visitor, then as a vacation home owner, then as a full-time resident in 2006 when she immediately jumped into community action at Point Cabrillo Light Station, the League and the board of directors of the Mendocino Music Festival. Here she is marching in the festival’s entry to the 2013 Fourth of July Parade in Mendocino Village.

VOTER photo

*Environmental Issues***Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking): Some Facts Behind the Controversy**

By Sharon Gilligan Hydraulic fracturing or hydrofracturing is the breaking up of rock by a pressurized liquid. In this process water is mixed with sand and chemicals, and the mixture is injected at high pressure into a wellbore to create small fractures along which fluids such as gas, petroleum, uranium-bearing solution, and brine water may migrate to the well. Hydraulic pressure is removed from the well, and then small grains of proppant (sand or aluminum oxide) hold these fractures open once the rock achieves equilibrium (a condition when all competing influences are balanced). The technique is very common in wells for shale gas, shale oil, and coal seam gas and hard rock wells. This well treatment to boost production is usually done once in the life of the well and enhances fluid removal and well productivity, but there has been an increasing trend towards multiple hydraulic fracturing as production declines.

The process is commonly known as fracking, but the industry prefers to call it frac or fracturing. A different technique where only acid is injected is referred to as acidizing.

The technique is intended to increase the rate at which fluids, such as petroleum, water, or natural gas can be recovered from subterranean natural reservoirs. Reservoirs are usually porous sandstones, limestones or dolomite rocks, but also include "unconventional reservoirs" such as shale rock or coal beds. Hydraulic fracturing enables the production of natural gas and oil from rock formations deep below the earth's surface (generally 5,000–20,000 feet (1,500–6,100 m)), which is usually greatly below groundwater reservoirs of basins if present. At such depth, permeability or reservoir pressure may not be sufficient to allow natural gas and oil to flow from the rock into the wellbore at efficient rates. Creating fractures in the rock is essential to extract gas from shale reservoirs because of the extremely low natural permeability of shale.

Fractures provide a path connecting a larger volume of the reservoir to the well. The yield for a typical shale gas well generally falls off after the first year or two, although the full producing life of a well can last several decades.

Hydraulic fracking is controversial in myriad ways; not the least of which is contained in its name. Hydro (water) is an increasingly scarce resource in this state and many others. Because so many aspects of this process falls within what corporations claim as "proprietary knowledge", the public is barred from knowing how much water is expended, what chemicals are added to the water, or what hazardous material resulting at the conclusion of this process might be detrimental to groundwater.

The League's California Board advocates for the citizens of the state regarding fracking as it relates to issues on which they already have positions, including:

- Water: the Board states the need to "protect the natural environment in areas of both water origin and water use";

- Hazardous materials: the Board includes statements about strong regulatory planning, inspection procedures and enforcement to protect Californians and their lands;

- Environmental Protection and Pollution Control: 1) "Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment." 2) "Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship."

- Public Participation: the Board states "the public has a right to know about pollution levels, dangers to health and the environment, and proposed resource management policies and options. The public has a right to participate in decision-making at each phase in the process and at each level of government involvement.

Sources: Wikipedia and LWVC website

CALIFORNIA GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION SET FOR JUNE 3

By Charlene McAllister The California Gubernatorial Primary Election is June 3, 2014. Under the new Top Two System, all qualified candidates for Congress, statewide executive offices and the California Legislature are listed on one ballot (no more one-party primary ballots). You can vote for any candidate and the two candidates who receive the most votes, regardless of party preference, move on to the general election in November.

To learn what will be on your ballot go to Smart Voter:

<http://www.smartvoter.org/>

The League of Women Voters of California recommends a yes

vote on the following two propositions on the June ballot.

Proposition 41: The Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014 was put on the ballot by the Legislature and authorizes \$600 million in general obligation bonds for affordable multifamily supportive housing to relieve homelessness, affordable transitional housing, affordable rental housing, or related facilities for veterans and their families. Fiscal Impact: Increased state bond costs averaging about \$50 million annually over 15 years.

Proposition 42: The Public Records, Open Meetings, State Reimbursement to Local Agen-

cies, Legislative Constitutional Amendment was put on the ballot by the Legislature and requires local government compliance with laws providing for public access to local government body meetings and records of government officials. It eliminates reimbursement for costs of compliance. Fiscal Impact: Reductions in state payments to local governments in the tens of millions of dollars annually. Potential future costs on local governments in the tens of millions of dollars annually.

Additional election information can be found at:

<http://www.easyvoterguide.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/EVG-Jun14-Eng-FINAL.pdf>

JUNE 3, 2014

GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

FIRST DAY FOR ABSENTEES - May 5, 2014

LAST DAY TO REGISTER - May 19, 2014

Register to vote in the office of the County Clerk in Ukiah or any Department of Motor Vehicles Office and in many City Halls and Libraries. You may also call the County Clerk's office 707 234-6819 to request a voter registration form be sent to you in the mail.

Additional information for Military or Overseas voters can be found at:

<http://www.fvap.gov/>

Online Voter Registration is now available. Please go to:

<http://RegisterToVote.ca.gov/>

SAMPLE BALLOTS BEGIN TO BE MAILED OUT - April 24, 2014

MAY BEGIN OPENING ABSENTEE BALLOTS - May 23, 2014

WRITE IN DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY- April 7, 2014 – May 20, 2014

GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE NOVEMBER 4, 2014

Source: County of Mendocino Office of the Assessor/Clerk/Recorder

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 2014-2015 cover the period between September, 2014, and September, 2015. These dues will be payable at our Sept. 16, 2014, kickoff meeting at the Harbor Lite Lodge in Fort Bragg. May 13 is our last meeting until Sept. 16, 2014.

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**
P.O. Box 1128
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

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

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

**Mendocino County
 Election Office
 (707) 463-4371**

www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org

www.smartvoter.org/ca/state/

www.ca.lwv.org

**To confirm the county's
 receipt of your vote-by-mail
 ballot:**

www.lwv.org

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

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

http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml

http://www.lwvc.org/issues/money-in-politics