



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

September 2013

Jane Person, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

LWV KICKS OFF NEW YEAR WITH FOCUS ON SCHOOLS

By Barbara Matheson

Fort Bragg Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Donald Armstrong and Mendocino Unified School District Superintendent Jason Morse will speak at the League's opening meeting September 10 at the Harbor Lite Lodge, Fort Bragg.

After their presentations, both administrators will answer questions.

Dr. Armstrong, a Bay Area native, received a BA degree at the University of California, Berkeley, an MA in educational administration at San Francisco State University and a Doctorate of Education from the University of La Verne. He was appointed superintendent of FBUSC in 2008.

Jason Morse, a Michigan native, received a BA at Michigan State University and an MA in educational leadership from Castleton State College, in Vermont. He was hired as

Mendocino K-8 principal in 2011 and named superintendent a year later.

The League sent a list of questions to each. Included are questions about the how College of the Redwoods problems affect their districts as well as a request to describe each district's preparation for the new Common Core State Standards that go into effect in 2014. Other questions deal with alternative and/or charter schools in each district (how these schools are monitored and funded) and how each district deals with high school dropouts.

Please plan to attend, learn about local schools, bring your own questions and ask a friend to join you.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort that established a single set of educational standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in English lan-

guage arts and mathematics that states adopt voluntarily. California adopted the standards which are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter credit-bearing courses in two-year or four-year colleges, or enter the workforce. Standards are clear and concise so parents, teachers, and students understand the expectations in reading, writing, speaking/listening, language and mathematics in school. The nation's governors and education commissioners, through their representative organizations, developed Common Core State Standards. Participating organizations were National Governors Association (NGA) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Teachers, parents, school administrators and education experts from across the country also worked with state leaders to develop the standards.

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**Please Join us and
Bring a Friend
To the First Meeting
Of the League's
2013-2014 Year**

**September 10, 2013
Harbor Lite Lodge,
Fort Bragg**

**The meeting starts
with a light brunch
at 9:30 a.m.**

**The speakers' program
begins at 10:15 a.m.**

**Our Speakers are
Dr. Don Armstrong,
FBUSC
And
Jason Morse,
MUSD**

**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

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964-2781 eel@mcn.org

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937-2481 joanblackstone@comcast.net

Kitty Brown **Director**
964-8982

Carol Czadek **Voter Service**
964-9007 norcoel@mcn.org

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 charmac@mcn.org

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

President's Message: Online Voting? Not So Fast!

At first glance online voting seems a logical extension of the ways we already use the internet: We bank online, buy and sell merchandise online, pay bills online, communicate via social media, receive news and information online, and so forth.

In fact, Assembly Member Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) introduced a bill this spring (AB 19) that would allow a county to conduct an Internet Voting Pilot Program for a local election. But a closer look reveals compelling reasons why this is an idea whose time has not come.

LWVC “regretfully must oppose AB 19,” LWVC President Jennifer Waggoner wrote Ting in a letter in April. She wrote also, “The League of Women Voters of California supports measures that protect the right of all citizens to vote and opposes major threats to basic constitutional rights, including voting. We believe that election services that safeguard the voting process should be maintained and support voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible, and transparent.”

Further, LWVUS supports only voting systems that are designed so that they employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, said paper being the official record of the voter/s intent (*Impact on Social Issues 2010-2012*).

One of the workshops at the LWV State Convention in May dealt with this issue, and here are more details on the problems with this idea.

Internet voting isn't secure. Personal computers from which emails are sent are easily and constantly attacked. It's happened to most of us. Other vulnerabilities include attacks on the election server and on the networks connecting them. Attacks aren't limited to attempts to tamper with votes or vote tallies but also denial of service attacks.

Internet voting isn't recountable. There's no paper ballot and thus no record of the vote.

Internet voting is not accessible to all. Elderly, low-income, or rural voters are less likely to have computers and internet access. There's no evidence for claims of improved voter turnout and reduced costs, but there are significant risks to voter disenfranchisement.

Finally, internet voting isn't transparent. Nobody knows whether there is voting fraud in those nations who have tried it, like Estonia, because there is no way to detect it.

The League agrees with Secretary of State Debra Bowen and many other private and public computer security experts that casting ballots over the internet isn't secure and, at least given the current state of our knowledge, cannot be made secure.

So, at this point, voting is just better done the old way—like paper ballots and voting booths.

Jane Person



2013-2014 LWVMC Calendar

Tuesday, September 10, 2013	Kickoff Meeting 10:15 a.m. Harbor Lite Lodge, Fort Bragg Light Brunch at 9:30 a.m. Speakers: Superintendents Dr. Don Armstrong, FBUSD and Jason Morse, MUSD
Tuesday, September 24, 2013	Board Meeting 9:30 a.m., Fort Bragg Library
Tuesday, October 8, 2013	General Program Meeting 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center Program: Erosion of Voting Rights
Tuesday, October 29, 2013	Board Meeting 9:30 a.m., Fort Bragg Library
Tuesday, November 12, 2013	General Program Meeting 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center Program: Climate Change—The LWVUS Toolkit
Tuesday, January 7, 2014	Board Meeting 9:30 a.m., Fort Bragg Library
Tuesday, January 14, 2014	General Program Meeting 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center Program: National Program Planning
Tuesday, February 4, 2014	Board Meeting 9:30 a.m., Fort Bragg Library
Tuesday, February 11, 2014	General Program Meeting 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center Program: Healthcare
March, 2014	Annual Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials Event—Date, Place and Time to be Announced
Tuesday, March 25, 2014	Board Meeting 9:30 a.m., Fort Bragg Library
Tuesday, April 8, 2014	General Program Meeting 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center Program: To Be Announced
Tuesday, May 13, 2014	Annual Luncheon Business Meeting Time and Place To be Announced

All General Program Meetings Are Open to the Public. All Board Meetings are Open to Members.

Know Your County

The Office of the County Counsel of Mendocino County

By *Barbara Auerbach*

Have you ever wondered who the Office of the County Counsel represents? Isn't it supposed to represent the best interests of the people who reside in the County? Do you wonder what it means when District Attorneys represent the people of the state of California but they will not represent you if you have been charged with a crime?

The Office of the County Counsel is not to be confused with the Office of the District Attorney. County Counsel provides legal services to the County in all civil matters, while the District Attorney, as a constitutional officer and the public prosecutor acting on behalf of the people, conducts prosecutions for public offenses, to detect crime and to investigate criminal activity.

The Board of Supervisors appoints the County Counsel for a four-year term pursuant to section 27641 of the California Government Code. Our current head of the County Counsel office is Thomas R. Parker, who was appointed in 2012.

The District Attorney is an official who is elected by the people of Mendocino County. Our current District Attorney, C. David Eyster, was elected Nov. 2, 2010. The County Counsel's main client is the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

In addition to the Board of Supervisors, the County Counsel provides legal services to County Departments, special districts and county agencies such as the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District, Mendocino Council of Governments, Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Mendocino Transit Authority, Mendocino County Air Quality Management District, and the Mendocino County Water District. County Counsel attorneys also appear in quasi civil/criminal matters representing the Department of Social Services in the Dependency Court while the District Attorney's office represents the state in the Juvenile Delinquency Court for criminal matters. Neither the County Counsel nor the District Attorney represents you

personally. The County Counsel represents districts and agencies that serve the people who reside and work in the county.

The District Attorney, on the other hand protects the safety of the people by investigating and bringing actions against people involved in the criminal justice system. The County Counsel serves as legal counsel for the Grand Jury while the District Attorney's office investigates matters that come before it, and may advise the Grand Jury as to those investigations.

The County Counsel's office provides training to agencies that need to comply with mandated training laws such as: Ethics, Brown Act, Public Records Act, Sexual Harassment, and Discrimination. They will represent the county in Mental Health Courts, and provide legal services to the Board of Education. County Counsel attorneys also represent the county and its employees in the defense of all claims filed against the county in state and federal courts.

In an article written by Tiffany Revelle of the *Ukiah Daily Journal*, after Thomas Parker was appointment by the Board of Supervisors, he said: "The major issues will include how the county is going to deal with the medical marijuana conflict in state law and how best the county can make marijuana policies that are appropriate, how best to grow the economy that's consistent with what the law allows...and even requires the county to do. There are land use issues such as preserving agriculture...to make sure we have a viable, prosperous agricultural sector. Of particular interest is the way individual case rulings throughout the state constantly change the legal landscape of medical marijuana law."

Parker was appointed to head the Office of County Counsel when Jeanine Nadel stepped down to accept an appointment to the Mendocino County Superior Court. The interim county counsel withdrew from his post after his arrest for having a small amount of marijuana in his possession and a concealed weapon.

ACTION

BY BARBARA MATHESON

ORNER

State Action:

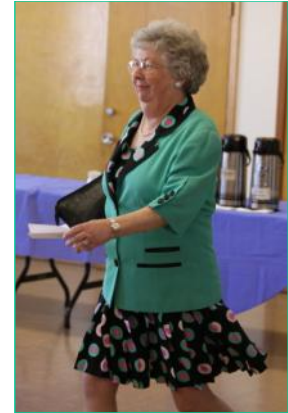
The State League's focus this fall is "Money in Politics." The League is co-sponsoring The Sunshine in Campaigns Act (SB 2, SB 3, and SB 27). This act is a comprehensive approach that closes the Citizens United nonprofit loophole, requires candidates to stand by their ads, modernizes the online filing system, and increases penalties for those who violate campaign disclosure.

These bills have been passed by the Senate (our League lobbied Senator Noreen Evans to support it) and are now in the Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting and will be heard by that committee after the summer recess. We will send Assem-

bly Member Wes Chesbro a letter asking for his support if and when it comes out of committee.

National Action:

Our local League answered a "Call to Action" from national and sent a letter to Senators Boxer and Feinstein and Representative Huffman asking they work to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act to its full strength. We pointed out that since the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, states across the country have acted swiftly to pass and implement new restrictions on voting rights. We need fast action to restore the Voting Rights Act to ensure our elections are free, fair and accessible to all citizens.



Action Chair Barbara Matheson appeared in the League's 90th Anniversary celebration in Fort Bragg on February 9, 2010.

Member Update—Janis Ossa



We first met Janis Ossa several years when she invited LWVMC Board members Susan Eveleth and Becky Bowen to Willits to lead a discussion about State Propositions at a meeting of the city's chapter of the American Association of University Women.

The discussion was so lively and Janis was so nice that we stayed in

touch with her and Janis decided to join our League. She continued her membership after she moved to Angels Camp, CA, and returned to the coast in May to attend our annual League business meeting. She continues to support us with generous donations, letters and wise advice.

Marine Science Student Receives Juanita Bullard CR Scholarship

Amanda Bugher, 22, received the College of the Redwoods 2013 Juanita Bullard Memorial Scholarship in April.



Ms. Bugher, a native of Wyoming, previously attended Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming. She is a CR marine science student and plans to transfer to Humboldt State University when she completes her studies in Fort Bragg. She is a work study student and a Peer Mentor.

The annual \$500 scholarship is awarded to a CR student at the Fort Bragg campus by an anonymous donor to honor Juanita Bullard's service to the local League. Ms. Bullard died in October, 2008.

Profiles in League

Please Welcome Our Newest Members Mary Kay and Boyd Hight

By Jane Person

The LWVMC's newest members, Mary Kay and Boyd Hight are (like many of us) Southern California transplants. They sold their home in Los Angeles recently and will split their time between Denver and the house they built in Caspar more than 20 years ago.

From the time she was 10 to 18 years old, Mary Kay lived in Alabama, the daughter of a Birmingham neurosurgeon. She said when she read and then saw "The Help" it was

painfully familiar from her teenage years. Dislike of such treatment of African-Americans led Mary Kay, then a Duke student, to attend an integrated conference in North Carolina, sponsored by the YWCA, to bring about integration in the area. She found that what eventually integrated Duke was not social activism but competitive sports. The experience, however, contributed to a life-long interest in politics.

Upon graduation from Duke she married U.S. Navy Lieutenant (j.g.) Boyd, who would enter Yale Law School 18 months later. After the birth of her daughter, she went to work as professional field representative for the Girl Scouts. Following Boyd's graduation from Yale, the family spent a year in Stockholm where Boyd had received a scholarship to study the new Swedish law giving the right to strike to public employees. The Hights left Sweden for Los Angeles where Boyd began his law practice and they added a son to the family. Twelve years later, Boyd, with family along, left Los Angeles to become Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Air, Sea and Space affairs during the Carter administration.

Boyd retired as a partner after many years of practice at O'Melveny and Myers, the oldest law firm in Los Angeles. He served on several boards including Planned Parenthood, American University in Cairo and most recently, the Los Angeles Airport Commission.

When the family returned to Los Angeles from the Washington, D.C., job, Mary Kay completed a doctorate at UCLA in Art History with a focus on American

and Native American Art. She taught at Pomona College and University of California at Irvine. For many years she was employed at the Norton Simon Museum as an educator, and from 2004-2007 she worked for the Huntington Museum Library and Art Museum preparing a major show for the summer of 2007 entitled "Legacy and Legends: 400 Years of Images of American Indians."



The Hights gather to enjoy a holiday card moment with children and grandchildren.

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That exhibition was based in large part on her doctoral dissertation, which was a history of images of American Indians depicted by non-Indians from John White to Edward Curtis and Karl Moon. The exhibit received a full page of coverage in *The Los Angeles Times*.

The Hights served on the board of the Huntington Museum in Pasadena as well as the board of Los Angeles' Autry Museum of Western History (they were active on that museum's board when the Autry merged with the Southwest Museum, a venerable Los Angeles repository of Native American art and history).

Mary Kay cares deeply about historic preservation. She was one of the founders of the Los Angeles Conservancy (one of the two largest such organizations in the United States) and served for a time as its president. The Conservancy has had an important impact on Los Angeles and has pioneered the concept of Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, designated as historic urban neighborhoods.

Mary Kay and Boyd now divide their time between Caspar and Denver, but also travel to visit children, grandchildren, siblings and to explore places of interest for art, architecture, nature, and golf. They read, garden, cook, golf, walk, and attend many musical performances, youth lacrosse, and field hockey games.

From our photo archives:



Every once in a while, we are lucky to get an image of pure Mendocino County political and/or cultural interaction. Here is one of those moments at the 2013 League of Women Voters Meet & Greet Your Elected Officials event. League members invite community leaders and elected officials to come meet the public. There is no agenda, no microphone, and no speech-making. These are special times when voters can talk to officials one-on-one. Here, District Attorney C. David Eyster meets William Lemos, of Mendocino Abalone Watch.

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.

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 2013-2014 cover the period between September, 2013 and September, 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**

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

Measure H Election Night Report

The county clerk's office reported
 after 8 p.m. Aug. 27, 2013 :

Yes 693 70.71%*
No 287 29.29%

Registered Voters 3,101
 Votes Cast 981

Measure H for voters of Fort Bragg only:
 Will the city of Fort Bragg continue a
 half-cent sales tax for city street repairs?
 A 2/3 vote required to pass.

*Results will be certified at completion of canvass.

www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org

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

www.ca.lwv.org

www.smartvoter.org/ca/state/

www.lwv.org

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>