



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

September, 2014

Carol Czadek, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

LWVMC To Focus on Election, Voting Issues At Sept. 16 “Kickoff” Meeting in Fort Bragg

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County members will start a new year with a discussion about election and voting rights issues on Tuesday, September 16, at Fort Bragg’s Harbor Lite Lodge.

Board Members Dorine Real and Pat Dunbar will look at national and local election issues and update members on the state of voting rights in individual states.

The meeting starts at 10 a.m. in the Harbor Lite meeting room and will include a light buffet brunch. Coffee will be available at 9:30 a.m.

President Carol Czadek will introduce the new Board of Directors and give a brief overview of meetings planned for the 2014-2015 year including plans for League candidate forums this fall and a presentation of pros and cons of state

ballot proposition.

The General Election is November 4, 2014. This is the first meeting of the League year and membership dues will be due at this time.

Please encourage friends to join us at this meeting. League of Women Voters meetings are open at no charge to the public (small donations at the door are gratefully accepted).

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE CAROL CZADEK	2
COUNTY BUDGET PRESENTATION	3
LWVUS AND VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT	4
BOOK REVIEW SHARON GILLIGAN	6
REMEMBERING MARCET MAKELA, THANKING OUR LEAGUE DONORS	7
LWV 2014-2015 CALENDAR	8
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION	9



PLEASE HOLD THESE DATES FOR LWV CANDIDATE FORUMS

League Voter Service Chair Jane Person has scheduled the following candidate forums this fall:

Friday, September 26, 2014—Fort Bragg City Council 6-7:30 p.m., Fort Bragg Town Hall

Friday, October 10, 2014—State Assembly 6-7:30 p.m., Fort Bragg Town Hall

Friday, October 17, 2014—State Senate 6-7:30 p.m., C.V. Starr Community Center, Fort Bragg

Five candidates have filed to run for three seats on the Fort Bragg City Council, including incumbents Dave Turner and Heidi Kraut. Other candidates are Mark Iacuaniello, retired educator; Linda Peters, radio announcer; and Michael A. Cimolino, retired city employee. City Council Member Meg Courtney did not refile for reelection.

Second District Assembly Candidates Jim Wood (Democrat), of Healdsburg, and Matt Heath (Republican), of Santa Rosa, will speak at the October 10 forum. Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro is termed out in 2014.

Second District Senate Candidates Mike McGuire (Democrat), of Healdsburg, and Lawrence R. Wiesner (Republican), of Santa Rosa, will speak at the October 17 forum. Incumbent Noreen Evans is not running for reelection. The VOTER staff will keep you posted on an any additional forums.

**2014-2015 Officers
Board of Directors**

President 964-9271	Carol Czadek norcoel@mcn.org
Vice President 964-2781	Dorine Real dorine@mcn.org
Vice President 964-4942	Patricia Marien paprika@mcn.org
Secretary 357-4272	Cindy Plank theplanks@yahoo.com
Treasurer 964-2781	Lee Tepper eel@mcn.org
Voter Service 964-6351	Jane Person janeperson@hotmail.com
JoAn Blackstone 937-2481	Director joanblackstone@comcast.net
Roberta Brockschmidt 964-3600	Director RRBrockschmidt@comcast.net
Pat Dunbar 937-3409	Director pdunbar@mcn.org
Babs Levine 937-0629	Director babs.levine@gmail.com
Nancy Kleiber 964-6862	Action nkleiberca@mac.com
Jary Stavely 964-4942	Membership jstavely@mcn.org
Off-Board Chairpersons	
Jim Plank	Budget
Betty Barber	Nominating
VOTER editor 937-4463	Charlene McAllister charm@mcn.org

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

President's Message “It was naughty of Winston Churchill to say, if he really did, that ‘the best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.’ Nevertheless, many voters’ paucity of information about politics and government raises awkward questions about concepts central to democratic theory. Usually only 30 percent of Americans can name their two senators. The average American expends more time becoming informed about choosing a car than choosing a candidate. In a 2006 Zogby poll, only 42 percent could name the three branches of the federal government.



Voters cannot hold officials responsible if they do not know what government is doing, or which parts of government are doing what.” *George Will, The Washington Post*

This quote has been disturbing me lately. George Will blames the voter when the real problem is the result of much bigger issues. The League of Women Voters has done a good job in providing voters with timely and useful nonpartisan information about candidates and issues. But the constant fight against State bills which decrease voter participation, against gerrymandered districts which decrease voters’ representation, and against unrestricted and unknown money in politics which misleads voters is taking a larger amount of the League’s time and resources.

It is a good and noble fight which I support. I don’t regret that most of our membership fee goes to the national and state coffers. Necessary work is being done. At the local level our League has the opportunity to make a difference. I am happy to help with planning interesting and informative meetings, candidate forums, and voter registration efforts. Plus, it’s great to interact and socialize with such a wonderful group of people.

Carol Czadek

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.**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMES TO FORT BRAGG FOR PRESENTATION ABOUT 2014-15 COUNTY BUDGET

County CEO Carmel J. Angelo introduced the recommended 2014-15 budget at a public meeting August 14 in Fort Bragg—a \$227,550,301 budget with three priorities:

- Maintain current level of service to the public
- Continue investment in county infrastructure
- Continue to focus on “system sustainability” and save costs wherever possible

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County sponsored the meeting at Fort Bragg’s Town Hall, the first of several informational presentations held in August around the county prior to the public budget hearings by the Board of Supervisors September 8, 9, 10 in Ukiah.

The recommended budget is balanced and represents an overall increase of some 1 per cent from the 2013-14 budget, Angelo said.

The county will be challenged to obtain quality of life for its 90,000 residents in light of stunted economic and population growth, escalation of the cost of doing government business and financial support of the county pension system. Angelo noted the rate of seniors living in poverty is higher than any



County CEO Carmel J. Angelo (left) and Deputy Chief Executive Officer Heidi M. Dunham at August 14, 2014 presentation.

Northern California county. And it is too soon to plan how a predicted legalization of marijuana will impact growth, revenue or spending in the county, she said. “But right now, we are not seeing growth in industry here. The Board of Supervisors is doing everything it can to pay for services for our people, but what we don’t have now is the revenues coming in.”

She encouraged county residents to look at the recommended budget on line, talk to Supervisors about it, and participate in the September hearings. Budget charts and estimates show slow economic growth means reduced county revenues which has led to dire cuts in salaries and services in the past. “The bleeding is stopped now,” Angelo said. The recommended budget is balanced and includes some funding for unanticipated expenses. “What we don’t have is a spending problem; what we have is a revenue prob-

lem,” Angela said. A copy of the recommended budget is at:

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/administration/14-15RecommendedBudget.htm>

Staff members answered questions from the audience, many of which dealt with the costs of county road maintenance, management of services for the homeless and resources and management of mental health services. Budget presentations by CEO Angelo and her staff also were planned during the month of August in Redwood Valley, Ukiah, Willits and Gualala.

LWVUS URGES CONGRESS TO SPEED UP ACTION TO UPDATE AND REPAIR VOTING RIGHTS LAW

Editor's Note: In 2013, portions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act were ruled unconstitutional. The National League has taken a leading role in restoring and updating the protections intended in the original legislation that is considered a triumph in a fight to end racial discrimination in this country. Last year, local League members gave protection of voting rights the highest priority in our recommendations to the national organization for action. Here is a timeline of events that tells us how we got to where we are now: Stuck in glue.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT—A TIMELINE

August 6, 1965—President Lyndon Johnson signs Voting Rights Act, a law that says every American, regardless of race, has equal access to the right to vote. It had only taken a few weeks for passage after the bill was introduced in the Congress March 17, 1965, by Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-MT) and Sen. Everett Dirksen (R-IL).

1970, 1975, 1982, 2006—U.S. Supreme Court rulings and legislation expand protection of the right to vote by addressing issues such as denial of the right through poll taxes, gerrymandering and procedural and administrative issues like manipulating at-large elections in a way that denied voting rights to racial or language minorities.

June 25, 2013—*Shelby County, Alabama v Holder* U.S. Supreme Court 5-4 decision rules portions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act are unconstitutional because the formula used to protect voting rights was based on 40-year-old data that no longer is relevant. The court indicates Congress would need to enact an updated formula in order to invoke provisions of the act that protect minority voting rights.

January 16, 2014—Rep. James F. Sensenbrenner (R-WI) introduces H.R. 3899 and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) introduces S. 1945. The proposed Voting Rights Amendment Act (VRAA) is co-sponsored by a bi-partisan group of some 86 Representatives (32 California Congress Members, including Rep. Jared Huffman, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Mike Thompson and Rep. Jackie Speier) and 9 Senators (including Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who is a member of the Judiciary Committee). The National League of Women Voters urges immediate action on the bill and says it is critical to preserve voting rights protection. The bill addresses issues like requirement of photo identification at the polls and transparency in public notices regarding changes to election procedures and policies, polling places and demographic electoral districts.

March 20, 2014—H.R. 3899 is referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on The Constitution and Civil Justice. It is the most recent action noted in THOMAS legislative information from The Library of Congress. The subcommittee is chaired by Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ) who represents the 8th Congressional District north of Phoenix.

June 25, 2014—After a Senate Judiciary Committee meeting about S. 1945, LWV President Elisabeth MacNamara calls for action. She says the VRAA is a workable solution and urges Congress to “keep this legislative fix moving forward.” A note is logged at *Congress.gov* that the most recent committee action on the bill is “hearing held.”

August 6, 2014—On the 49th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act, the National Commission on Voting Rights releases a new report that says discrimination against minority voters in the United States is ongoing and deeply serious. The name of the report is “Protecting Minority Votes: Our Work is Not Done” (story on Page 5).

COMMISSION REPORT SHOWS DISCRIMINATION AT POLLS CONTINUES TO BE PRACTICED IN U.S.

The National League of Women Voters has put passage of the Voting Rights Amendment Act (VRAA) at the top of its action priority list in the aftermath of a 2013 Supreme Court ruling that struck down portions of the Voting Rights Act that many considered a defining moment in the national civil rights movement.

League President Elisabeth MacNamara issued a press release August 6 that said the ball has been tossed to the Legislature to restore protection of voting rights protected by the 1965 act. She said the need for action was timely, critical and necessary since voting rights violations continue in the U.S.

MacNamara cited the work of the National Commission on Voting Rights in a new publication entitled “Protecting Minority Voters 2014 Our Work is Not Done.”

The report is one of two that will be shared with Congress based on a series of testimonies about voting rights and election “problems or opportunities” gathered in meetings across the country between 1995 and 2014.

Report conclusions indicate voting discrimination against minorities is frequent and on-going. It cited more than 330 successful voting rights lawsuits and another ten non-litigation settlements.

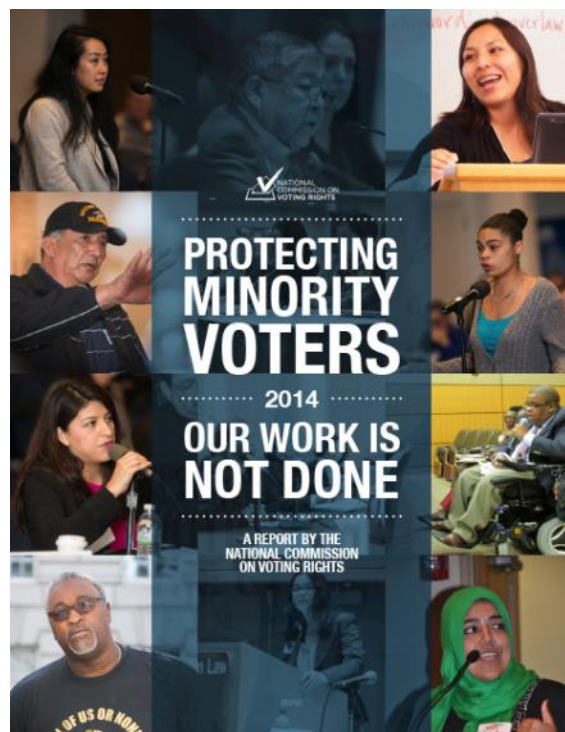
States in the South and Southwest where elections formerly were the focus of Voting Rights Act review continue to have the worst records of voting discrimination according the report, which says Texas is the worst, closely followed by Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

Voting rights violations are triggered in various ways, such as discriminatory redistricting plans or discriminatory at-large elections, according to the report, which also cites a number of lawsuits and settlements relating to language translation and assistance.

The report can be downloaded at no charge at:

<http://votingrightstoday.org/nvcr/resources/discriminationreport>

The National Commission on Voting Rights was organized by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. That organization’s website indicates it is a non-partisan, non-profit group founded in 1963 at the request of John F. Kennedy with a mission to enlist private attorneys willing to be leaders in abolishing racial discrimination in the United States.



BOOK REVIEW— SHARON GILLIGAN

THE LAST RESORT, TAKING THE MISSISSIPPI CURE

By Norma Watkins

University of Mississippi Press, 2011

Reviewer's note: The terms used in this piece reflect those used in the book and in Mississippi in the 1940's and 1950's. We are grateful they have been retired in this century.

Beginning in 1943 when a child's world is changed forever when her father goes off to war, Norma Watkins' tale of growing up in Mississippi during the era of segregation is riveting. It is rich in detail and honest in the emotions, first of a young child and later a woman bound by the mores of the Deep South. The family house is sold, the pets disappear, Daddy gets on a train and Norma, her mother and baby sister go to live at Allison's Wells, a health spa run by Miss Hosford, the mother's sister. Although the war and daddy's diminished salary has made them poor, they retain their black nurse, Marie, to care for the two girls. Mama and Norma are expected to help with the running of the resort during the busy summer months.

Part memoir of a rebellious child growing up under rules she hated, part observation of the relationship between the white employers and guests of the spa and the black staff, this book moves gracefully from quiet scenes of peeling peaches for juicy desserts to tense moments when the curious Norma asks the wrong questions of the workers.

After the war, the family finds a house and the father's law practice and reputation grow. Norma discovers boys and finds new ways to break the rules. Ultimately at 19 she succumbs to tradition mainly to get out of her parents' house and marries an acceptable young man. She begins a life she really doesn't want, but in 1955 her choices are few. Her first child, a son, is born in 1957, but motherhood doesn't change her dissatisfaction with her life. Not even three more children. After her third child, Norma decides to go back to school. Her husband supports her in that decision, but it is there that she finds her artistic voice and begins to write.

Her father's career hits a high point when he becomes counsel to the segregationist governor of Mississippi, Ross Barnett. Family dinners are filled with rancorous debate about the wisdom of integration. In 1962 her father negotiated with Bobby Kennedy about how to handle the registration of James Meredith at Ole Miss. When the governor failed to carry out the agreed-upon scenario, Kennedy concocted his own plan to begin on a Sunday with Meredith's registration to happen on Monday. But crowds were whipped into a frenzy and police ordered to block the roads leading to the campus were pulled from their positions. Shots were fired and two people, a journalist and a bystander, died. President Kennedy nationalized the Mississippi National Guard and James Meredith was enrolled.

The book ends as Norma finds a new path for herself away from her husband and away, unfortunately, from her children because she loses a custody battle. But the path leads to a new career in teaching, a new life in Florida and a new freedom to believe in equality without being told otherwise by the men in her life.

I loved this book, not just because Norma is now my writing teacher living in Fort Bragg, but because it echoes many of the feelings women have finding their way to becoming who they really are.

Remembering Marcet Makela



Marcet Makela, a beloved League member who spoke her mind and loved her life, died July 11 in Fort Bragg. She was 87.

She was born on Mendocino County's Greenwood Ridge and grew up in a home where the ranch family worked hard and carried on lively political activism that connected her to the coastal community. She attended Pacific Grove High School and Santa Rosa Junior College, then returned to the coast. In 1948, she married World War II veteran Fred Makela in Fort Bragg. The couple made their home on Pudding Creek.

She was plugged in to the community. League President Carol Czadek remembers volunteering at the polls with her in the Pudding Creek precinct. She was the bookkeeper at Makela Bros. Boatworks in Fort Bragg, and active in the non-profit Noyo Women for Fisheries that supports the coastal fishing industry, fishermen and their families. Her recipe in the organization's *Not Just A Cookbook* is Buttery Stuffed Shrimp (page 12), illustrated with a photograph of Makela Boatworks and F/V Condor II. Good education, community support and wise legislation are goals for the Noyo Women for Fisheries, so it was natural for Marcet to join the League of Women Voters where her sense of justice, fun, and political activism was a good fit. She served on the League board for many years, as chair of Voter Service and Treasurer until 2002.

She was a member of the Gray Panthers, the Ne'r Do-Wells, a supporter of the local Finnish community and a marcher with the Old Broads for Peace in the Mendocino 4th of July Parade.

She is survived by children Kathleen (Bill) Gibney, Howard (Mary) Makela, Eric (Michelle) Makela, 8 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Marcet wanted no services. She requested us to either raise our glasses or plant something beautiful to remember her. Even now, she makes us smile.

We Sincerely Thanks All Members and Friends Who Donated to our 2014 Fund Drive

Betty Barber
Rachel Binah
JoAn Blackstone
Gary Bodensteiner
Becky and Winston Bowen
Kitty Brown
Colleen Cleary
Patricia Comen
Carol Czadek
Sharon DiMauro
Pat Dunbar
Doris Hammer
Helen Herbert remembering Mildred Benioff
Don and Shirley Kirkpatrick
Joan Lent remembering Mildred Benioff



Patricia Marien and Jary Stavely
Jim Mastin
Barbara and Ken Matheson
Charlene McAllister
Susan and John Mitchell
Janet Morris
Janis Ossa
Jennifer Owen
Jane Person
Cindy and Jim Plank
Barbara Rice
Charla Thorbecke
Ilene Weeks
Helen Williams
Tom Wodetzki

If you donated during to our virtual garden tour and are not listed above, please let us know so we can recognize you.



STATE LEAGUE ISSUES RECOMMENDATIONS ON NOVEMBER ELECTION BALLOT MEASURES

YES on Proposition 2, the measure to strengthen the state Rainy Day Fund (reserve) process.

YES on Proposition 47, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act that will change the lowest-level, nonviolent crimes such as simple drug possession and petty theft from felonies to misdemeanors, and dedicate the savings to crime prevention.

LWVC opposed **Proposition 43**, the water bond originally placed on the 2010 ballot then postponed to 2012 and again to this year. It has just been replaced by a new water bond, Proposition 1. We currently are reviewing this measure and do not yet have a recommendation.

The LWVC has no position on Propositions 45, 46 and 48.

On August 11, the state Supreme Court removed Proposition 49 from the ballot, ruling in part that the measure was advisory only with no binding legal effect if approved by voters. The measure asked voters to recommend Congress overturn the 2010 Citizens United "Corporate Personhood" U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

LWVMC Board Welcomes New Year and New Members

We always look forward to the new year and 2014-2015 promises to be busy and active.

Please join us at our monthly membership meetings. All League meetings are open to the public at no charge (small donations gladly accepted) and all board meetings are open to members.

We start this year with a new President, Carol Czadek, and a new Voter Service Chair, Jane Person. Nancy Kleiber is our new Action Chair. Roberta Brockschmidt agreed to serve on the board starting in August when board member Kitty Brown resigned (she moved to Colorado).

We thank Kitty for her four years of service and also thank Barbara Matheson, who decided to step down from the board after many years of service as a board member and president.

We're delighted Barbara agreed to continue to chair the Meet & Greet Your Elected Officials event, to be held in 2015 on March 20 at the Caspar Community Center.

League of Women Voters of Mendocino County 2014-2015 Meeting Calendar

Tuesday, September 16, 2014	Election and Voting Issues Dorine Real and Pat Dunbar 10 a.m. Harbor Lite Lodge, Ft. Bragg
Friday, September 26, 2014	LWV Candidate Forum-Fort Bragg City Council Fort Bragg Town Hall 6-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 7, 2014	Board of Directors Meeting 9:30 a.m. Fort Bragg Library Community Meeting Room
Friday, October 10, 2014	LWV Candidate Forum-2nd State Assembly District Fort Bragg Town Hall 6-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 14, 2014	Ballot Propositions Pros and Cons Jane Person, JoAn Blackstone, Jary Stavely 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center
Friday, October 17, 2014	LWV Candidate Forum-2nd State Senate District C.V. Starr Community Center, Fort Bragg 6-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 11, 2014	Post Election Issues Carol Czadek, Nancy Kleiber 10 a.m. Caspar Community Center
Tuesday, November 18, 2014	Board of Directors Meeting 9:30 a.m. Fort Bragg Library Community Meeting Room

No Meetings in December—Happy Holidays

And please hold these days in 2015 for LWV Meetings:

Tuesday, January 6, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2015	LWV State Positions Membership Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2015	Climate Change, Sustainability Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, March 20, 2015	Meet & Greet Your Elected Officials Event
Tuesday, April 7, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2015	Mendocino Community College Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2015	Annual Business Membership Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2015	Board of Directors Meeting

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.

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

www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org

www.ca.lwv.org

www.lwv.org

www.smartvoter.org/ca/state/

Mendocino County
 Election Office
 (707) 463-4371

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



Let the Sun Shine In

Save the Date
 May 15-17, 2015
 in San Diego

Visit <http://lwvc.wordpress.com>
 for more information

League of Women Voters of California Convention 2015

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>