



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

April, 2016 Annual Meeting Kit

Carol Czadek, President

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

Annual Meeting in May – Agenda Packet Enclosed

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County's Annual meeting will convene at 9:30 am on Tuesday, May 10th at the Caspar Community Center. We will elect our 2016 -2017 Directors and Officers and adopt a 2016-2017 Budget. Ideas for our 2016-2017 local program will be discussed over lunch. We will also review the LWV National Program.

Beginning on page 5 you will find the background material for this meeting: the agenda, slate of nominees, proposed budget, and the current local and national positions. To save paper, please print those pages out and bring them with you. The lunch will be a potluck based on hearty soup. Your contribution of a salad, dessert, or bread will be well appreciated.

April meeting

How State Water Use Restrictions Affect the Mendocino Coast

by Pat Dunbar

We are all grateful for the recent rains, and perhaps more rain through the end of April will continue to ease the statewide drought. However, water use restrictions put in place by Governor Brown remain in effect. Our April program will examine how both the drought and the restrictions have affected several local water systems.

A panel of four people will explain restrictions as they apply to Fort Bragg (small city, public mostly surface water based system), Surfwood (private subdivision, surface water system), and Caspar South and Sea Fair (private subdivision, well-based systems). Panel members are Marie Jones from the City of Fort Bragg, Barbara Garcia from Surfwood, Marlene Demery from Caspar South, and Donna Feiner from Sea Fair. After their presentations, there will be time for questions and discussion.

As I understand it, our part of the state is unusual in that our water usage, to the west of our ridgeline, does not affect water supplies in any other part of the county or state. However, we also have no other reservoirs or supplies to supplement local supplies. As it seems highly possible that future years will continue to have below-average rainfall, conservation and other coping methods, such as increased storage or desalinization, will become more important to ensure adequate water supplies. This introduction to some initial responses to our historic drought will help us to be more informed on this topic, and how it can be addressed if (when!) water shortages recur.

Please join us at the Caspar Community Center on April 12th at 10:00 (coffee at 9:30) to grapple with this important topic.

LWV 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.

Democracy Only Works When We Show Up

By Carol Czadek



Bad candidates are elected by good citizens who don't vote. Elections are not decided by a majority of the people. They never have been, from the beginning of our country, and they are not now.

As this country began, only white men of property could vote, but over time and with agitation and conflict, the franchise spread regardless of income, color or gender.

In the nineteen seventies, the voting age was lowered to 18. Our country's oldest and longest struggle has been to enlarge democracy by making it possible for more and more people to have access to and be treated equally at the polls.

A new nationwide effort to suppress the vote is now occurring, nurtured by fear and fierce resistance to inevitable demographic change. In the last four years, close to half the states in this country have passed laws to make it harder for people to vote. A Supreme Court decision – *Shelby County v. Holder* – revoked an essential provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, encouraging many states to impose restrictive voter ID laws, as well as work further to gerrymander Congressional districts and limit voting hours and registration. The reason is to lower voter turnout, in order to give the most powerful people in the country, the wealthiest, the most connected people, the ability to hold onto power by keeping those in opposition from participating in democracy's most cherished right.

The more people who vote, the less power the special interests have. Sherrilyn Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, notes, "For people who don't have the power to engage, in terms of money, in the political process, the way we all become equal on Election Day is that we cast that ballot ... [So] it's not just about corporate interests. It is about power. And it is

about trying to suppress the voice of those who are the most marginalized."

Go to the polls because you support democracy and our ability to elect the people who govern us.

The popular vote allows an elected official to send a message that there is support for his/her policies and vision for our government. It will make it easier for her to accomplish the things you believe in and hopefully have voted for.

If we reliably show up, our policymakers will start reacting to our interests, as they will see us as essential to becoming re-elected. We must show our policymakers that if they cast votes in our interest, we won't let others vote them out of office. The only way to do this is to show up, election after election.

Calendar of Pre-Election Events For the June Primary

April 1st

Measure V Forum
Caspar Community Center, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

April 15th

Voter registration at Latino Coalition film showing
Cotton Auditorium, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

April 22nd

Measure U Forum
Fort Bragg Senior Center, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

May 13th

Superior Court Judge Candidates' Forum
C.V. Starr Center, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

May 23rd

Registration deadline

June 7th

Election Day

Mark Your Calendar for Voter Service Events

by Jary Stavely

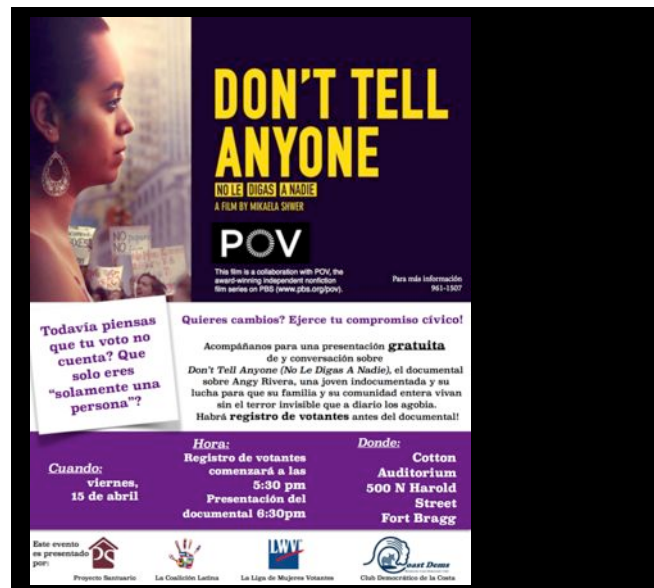
Voter services Chair Jane Person has organized a series of Friday meetings in preparation for the June 7th primary. First, on Friday, April 1st, at the Caspar Community Center, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., the League presented a forum on Measure V, the "Safe Forests" initiative. Albion/Little River Fire Chief Ted Williams presented arguments in favor, and Anderson Logging Inc.'s John Anderson argued against. Charlene McAllister moderated, with assistance from JoAn Blackstone, Roberta Brockschmidt, and Lee Tepper.

On Friday, April 22nd, the League will host a forum at the Redwood Coast Senior Center (490 N. Harold St.), again from 6 to 7:30, regarding Measure U, the initiative restricting social services in the Fort Bragg downtown area, to be voted on by Fort Bragg residents. Various private citizens will be presenting pros and cons, and JoAn Blackstone will be the moderator.

The June Primary features one contested countywide race, for Superior Court Judge. Keith Faulder and Patrick Pekin are running. Coastal voters will get a chance to see and hear them, as well as to ask questions at a League forum to be held on Friday, May 13th at the C.V. Starr Center in Fort Bragg. Sharon DiMauro will introduce the candidates and relay questions.

The League is also helping to sponsor a Latino Coalition voter registration event at Cotton Auditorium in Fort Bragg on Friday, April 15th, from 5:30 till 8:30. The film "Don't Tell Anyone," a documentary about an undocumented youth and her struggle to bring her family and community out of the shadows, will be shown, and high school students, as well as League members, will help attendees register to vote.

Please be sure to mark your calendars, prepare thoughtful questions, and come to these pre-election events. Your participation will help ensure informed voting by ourselves and by the general public.



LWVMC to Assist with Latino Voter Registration

by Jane Person

Voter registration in the Latino community is a new project recently undertaken by LWV Mendocino County, along with Project Sanctuary, the Latino Coalition, and the Coast Democratic Club.

These groups are sponsoring a film titled *Don't Tell Anyone (No le Digas a Nadie)* on April 15th at Cotton Auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. The film is about an undocumented young woman and her fight to help bring her family and her community out of the shadows.

At 5:30 League members and high school students will man tables assisting those eligible to vote with voter registration. Karina Becerra, head of the Latino Coalition, has set up training sessions at Ft. Bragg High School for those students who will help. League member Charlene McAllister will bring Easy Voter Guides in English and Spanish plus Voting 1-2-3 and 2016 Fast Fact Ballot Measures to help with the training.

League committee members assisting with the training and registration include Charlene, Cindy Plank, Jary Stavely, and Jane Person.



Meet and Greet (and Eat) 2016



2015-2016 Officers and Directors Contact List

President	Carol Czadek
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Director	Babs Levine
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Off-Board Chairpersons	
Budget	Jim Plank
Nominating	Patricia Marien
<i>Voter</i>	
Editors	Jary Stavely, Lee Tepper
Staff	Carol Czadek, Jane Person, Sharon Gilligan, Dorine Real

Spring Means Garden Tour

Spring is here, which means it's time for our annual Virtual Garden Tour. Don't overlook your invitation. The Garden Tour is our main fundraiser. Since dues are completely used up by our required contributions to State and National activities, the Garden Tour funds most of our local events and projects.

Contributions to the LWV Education Fund are tax-deductible and are dedicated to voter service and civic education activities initiated by our local League. Contributions to LWVMC are *not* tax-deductible, and are used for member activities such as meetings.

Thanks to Linda Jupiter and Becky Bowen for the photos.

League of Women Voters of Mendocino County
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, May 10, 2016 – 10 a.m.
Caspar Community Center

9:30 a.m. Sign in

10 a.m. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda
 Annual Meeting Minutes - May 10, 2016

Carol Czadek
 Minutes Committee:
 Jane Person, Nancy Kleiber,
 Babs Levine
 Lee Tepper
 Jim Plank

Financial Report

Presentation/Adoption of

Recommended 2016-2017 Budget

Election of Directors and Officers

Nominations Committee Report

Nominations from the Floor

Election of Officers and Directors

National/Local Positions Review

Patricia Marien

Charlene McAllister,
 Nancy Kleiber

Directions to the Board

Adjournment of Business Meeting

Potluck Luncheon/Table Talk

Membership
 Carol Czadek

Potluck dishes courtesy of League Members

Punch courtesy of Patricia Marien

Soup courtesy of Westport Hotel

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

Annual Meeting

Caspar Community Center

May 12, 2015

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by President Carol Czadek

Agenda adjustments were: Added items to be a 10:30 am speaker, Henry Thomas, from Mendocino Middle School, a presentation from Congressman Huffman by Heather Gurewitz and an announcement from Val Muchowski.

Val spoke of the history of woman getting the vote and the upcoming celebration planned for August 22nd. Members were invited to participate in the planning.

Jane Person reported that the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were found to be accurate.

Lee Tepper presented the Financial Report (attached) and noted that our financial picture remains positive. Lee noted that the monthly phone bill has increased. Pat Dunbar, who receives the calls noted that we get very few calls and mostly during an election. Heather Gurewitz suggested we look into a Google phone. This is to be discussed at the next board meeting.

Jim Plank introduced the speaker, Henry Thomas, an 8th grader from Mendocino Middle School who recently had an essay on why people should vote printed in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat.

Henry read his essay to a delighted crowd and was presented with a gift and our thanks.

Jim Plank, Budget Chair, presented the budget for the upcoming year (see attached). To balance the budget, a contribution from savings of \$1460.00 is expected to be needed. Membership is down to 37 individuals and 12 family memberships. After discussion, it was M/S/C (Committee/Dunbar) to approve the budget as presented.

Nancy Kleiber presented the local program positions and after review, it was M/S/C (Jary Stavely, JoAn Blackstone) to retain all the positions. Possible action items or studies for the upcoming year will be discussed after the meeting during "Table Talks" and recommendations sent to the board.

The proposal to increase the dues to \$60.00 per year for an individual and \$90.00 for family membership was presented. It was M/S/C (Dunbar/McAllister) to raise the dues as proposed.

The proposal to consider a meeting time change was discussed. It was M/S/C (Gurewitz/Tepper) to advise the board to explore options for expanding opportunities for working people to attend meetings.

Betty Barber, Nominating Committee Chair presented the slate of officers and board members. There being no nominations from the floor, it was M/S/C (Muchowski/Comen) to adopt the slate as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

A brief overview of the history of our local League by Charlene McAllister and the presentation of a certificate from Congressman Huffman and presented by Heather Gurewitz followed.

Submitted by Charlene McAllister for Cindy Plank, Secretary

Proposed 16-17 Budget

Income

Dues	\$3,570.00
Donations	\$600.00
Fund Raising	\$1,500.00
Interest on bank accounts	\$5.00
Drawdown from savings	\$3,386.25
Total	\$9,061.25

Expenses

PMP US.....	\$1,904.00
50% from edu funds	\$952.00
50% from LWV Mendocino	\$952.00
PMP CA	\$1,517.25
25% from edu funds	\$379.31
75% from LWV Mendocino	\$1,137.94
total PMP.....	\$3,421.25
Conventions/Workshops	\$3,000.00
Smart Voter	\$400.00
Publications	\$0.00
Program	\$200.00
Voter.....	\$200.00
Operating Expenses.....	\$800.00
Voter Service-MCTV	\$200.00
Publicity	\$50.00
Action	\$0.00
Membership	\$50.00
Fund Raising	\$100.00
Insurance	\$180.00
Special Events (Meet & Greet) .	\$300.00
Web Site	\$160.00
45% from edu funds	\$72.00
55% from LWV Mendocino	\$88.00
Total	\$9,061.25

Nominating Committee Recommendations

The nominating committee recommends the following slate for the 2016-17 fiscal year:

- Co-Presidents: Nancy Kleiber
Cindy Plank
- Vice President: Dorine Real
- Secretary: Sharon Gilligan
- Treasurer: Lee Tepper
- Elected Directors: Roberta Brockschmidt
Carol Czadek
Babs Levine
Jane Person
- (Appointed Directors Jary Stavely
JoAn Blackstone
Pat Dunbar)
- Off-Board Committee Chairs:
- Budget: Jim Plank
- Nominating: Patricia Marien

Table Talk: 2016-17 Program Planning

For the first time this year, we are incorporating the formal League “program planning” process into our annual meeting so that the new Board will have fresh direction from the membership to plan the year’s activities.

The process of planning the “program” for the next year begins with the review of existing positions and current issues. After member discussion, the local League chooses those positions which it believes should be retained, reviewed, updated, and/or deleted as well as those that we should emphasize for study and/or action in the coming year. The current local and national positions are

listed on the following pages.

Charlene McAllister will guide us through the decision process as we approve (or not) the existing positions and choose the issues we will focus on and how we want to address them: advocacy using existing positions; education of members and the public; or possible development of new or updated positions through the study process.

The Board will evaluate this member direction in light of our resources of time, people and funding when deciding on our League’s activities and programs for the coming year.

Current LWVUS National Positions

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen’s Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public’s right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of

the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen’s Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries.

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and

long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education. Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services. Provide essential support services.

Housing Supply. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

Sentencing Policy

The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

LWV of Mendocino County Local Positions

GOVERNMENT

Special Districts (Approved 1991, updated 2009)

Position in brief: Support of effective functioning of Special Districts to meet the needs of the people and the community.

- a. Special Districts are covered by the Brown Act and should be responsive and accountable to the public by providing information about meetings, agendas, finances, board vacancies and elections.
- b. Public access to meeting records should be in the most advanced medium possible.
- c. Special Districts should coordinate and cooperate with other districts and governmental agencies with a view toward reorganization (including expansion, dissolution, or annexation where feasible).
- d. Regular independent audits should be required.
- e. Changes in the organization of Special Districts should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis using the following criteria: Accessibility, accountability, economy, efficiency.

County Budget (Adopted 1994)

Position in brief: Support measures to ensure revenues which are fair, sufficient, and equitable to meet changing needs for county-wide services. Support the concept of a strategic plan which includes short term and long range goals. Factors which need to be considered are:

- a. Promotion of efficient utilization of county personnel, facilities and all resources.
- b. Aggressive pursuit of state and federal funding.
- c. Recognition of the diversity of the population and establishment of a means to allow for education and participation of the public.
- d. Initiation of the budget process no later than January each year to facilitate priority setting and general readiness to meet state and federal impacts and enable timely adoption of the budget.

Libraries (Adopted 1991)

Position in brief: Support improved library services and facilities which promote economy and utilization.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Solid Waste Management (Adopted 1991, updated 1993)

Position in brief: Support mandatory recycling of useable material. Support for:

- a. Legislation which requires an increase in the use of recyclable products.
- b. Strong measures to improve the manufacture and sale of recycled materials.
- c. Legislation which places requirements on cities and the reduction in their waste streams through recycling, composting, and other programs.
- d. Financial incentives.
- e. Education to promote increased awareness of local recycling programs.
- f. Reduction of unneeded packaging.

Transportation (Adopted 1991)

Position in brief: Support a public transportation system that continues to be subsidized and one that utilizes publicity and convenience to encourage ridership.

SOCIAL POLICY

Mendocino Health Care District (Adopted 1999)

Position in brief: Support for measures that increase the financial viability of the hospital and district, promote services that meet the needs of the community, and improve community relations. The district should be encouraged to advocate for the betterment of healthcare in the community it serves.

- a. Services provided by Mendocino Health Care District should reflect the needs of the community.
- b. The district board and administration should work in collaboration with other agencies and/or organizations to improve efficiency in the delivery of healthcare to the community.
- c. The district board and administration should continue to work with professional organizations to keep informed and advocate at the state and federal levels.
- d. The board and administration should improve and maintain communications with the community.
- e. There should be sound fiscal management and sufficient revenues to maintain and continue services provided by the district that will meet the changing needs of the community.

Sustainable Communities (Adopted as Issue for Emphasis 1999, as full position 2005)

The goals are:

- a. To provide community education on the topic of sustainability, with a focus on sustainable communities.
- b. To monitor the re-writing and implementation of the County General Plan as it relates to issues of community sustainability.