



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

November, 2017

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavelly and Lee Tepper, Editors

November meeting

Tracing a Path to Citizenship

“Path to Citizenship” is the topic chosen for the November 14 meeting of the League of Women Voters of Mendocino County at Caspar Community Center from 6:30 to 8 PM. Jane Person, of the League's Immigration Action Committee, has invited three local residents to share details about the process by which the foreign-born may become voting citizens.

Loreto Rojas, born in Chile, teaches Spanish to high school, college, and senior citizen students, and is active in providing translation services in the area. Jeanette Rasker belongs to our partner group, the Jewish Community Justice Center. Miranda Ramos is an ACLU spokesman for the coast, and active with another of our partner groups, the Latino Coalition.

The path to citizenship is an expensive one. Rasker heads a scholarship group which raises money for

LWVMC Endorses Measure B, the County Mental Health Treatment Act

Read our League's public statement on page 6

the process, which usually begins with citizenship classes. Only those with permanent resident status can go on to citizenship. Rojas will explain the lengthy and difficult process of becoming a citizen. Ramos will share her expertise about immigrant rights and the DACA program (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

Time will be allotted for questions and discussion. As always, the public is invited to attend this informative and important program. Doors will open at 6 PM and the presentation will begin a half hour later. For more information call 937-4952 or 964-6351. League members, please note that this is an evening meeting.



Presenters (l to r) Loreto Rojas, Miranda Ramos, and Jeanette Rasker

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.

President's message

Humanity

By Cindy Plank

hu·man·i·ty [(h)yoo'manədē] NOUN:

- the human race; mortals; Homo sapiens; human beings collectively: "*appalling crimes against humanity*"
- humaneness; benevolence: "*He praised them for their standards of humanity, care, and dignity*"



We've all seen that when disaster hits a community, like during the recent devastating hurricanes and our own horrific wild fires, members of *the human race* show up in droves with *benevolence, care* and *dignity*. Story after story speaks of sacrifice for the benefit of others. Politics, religion, culture, skin color—none of that seems to matter during a catastrophe.

And it's really amazing to experience that faith in the human capacity to give of oneself for the benefit of others. Maybe, when people are united against something they can tangibly fight together, the fear they've been hiding inside themselves from some unresolved pain stays in check.

But then recovery kicks in, and for those not directly in its throes, it is back to business, and back to politics as usual, which for many includes the bitter, hateful battles of them vs. us. For the remainder of this message, I'll share some insights from several authors who have lately come to my attention.

- "Courage is forged in pain, but not in all pain. Pain that is denied or ignored becomes fear or hate. When we are in pain and fear, anger and hate are our go-to emotions." – Brené Brown
- "I imagine one of the reasons people cling to their hate so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, they will be forced to deal with pain." – James A. Baldwin
- There is a line. It's etched from dignity. And raging, fearful people from the right and left are crossing it at unprecedented rates every single day. We must never tolerate dehumanization – the primary instrument of violence that has been used in every genocide recorded throughout history." - Brené Brown
- "Dehumanizing and holding people accountable are mutually exclusive. Humiliation and dehumanizing are not accountability or social justice tools, they're emotional off-loading at best, emotional self-indulgence at worst. And if our faith asks us to find the face of God in everyone we meet, that should include the politicians, media, and strangers on Twitter with whom we most violently disagree. When we desecrate their divinity, we desecrate our own, and we betray our faith." – Brené Brown
- "We publish the book of our lives every day through our actions, and through our conduct we teach one another what is worthy of admiration and what is worthy of disdain. Public figures are the primary teachers in this mutual education. Our leaders have outsize influence in either weaving the moral order by their good example or ripping it to shreds by their bad example." – David Brooks
- "Civility is claiming and caring for one's identity, needs, and beliefs without degrading someone else's in the process. ... (Civility) is about disagreeing without disrespect, seeking common ground as a starting point for dialogue about differences, listening past one's preconceptions, and teaching others to do the same. Civility is the hard work of staying present even with those with whom we have deep-rooted and fierce disagreements. It is political in the sense that it is a necessary prerequisite for civic action. But it is political, too, in the sense that it is about negotiating interpersonal power such that everyone's voice is heard, and nobody's is ignored." – Cassandra Dahnke and Tomas Spath, founders of the Institute for Civility in Government

The League of Women Voters "believes in respect for individuals, the value of diversity, the empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities, and the power to collective decision making for the common good. ... We act with trust, integrity and professionalism; operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve; take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership; acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future."

I am proud that with initiatives like "Setting the Table for Civility," (*see article on p. 8*) our organization is helping humanity get better at humanity.

Latino Coalition Activities

The League's partner group, the coastal Latino Coalition, has wrapped up its series of family movie nights, having raised \$206 towards its Dreamers Scholarship, established to provide \$500 toward the college expenses of an undocumented local high school student. On November 6, it will host a workshop for Spanish-speaking parents entitled *Cómo Hablar con su Adolescente (How to Talk to Your Teenager)* at the Fort Bragg Library Meeting Room, between 6 and 7:30 P.M. Governor Jerry Brown recently signed SB 54, the California Values Act, into California law. For an overview of how this legislation affects ICE activities in our state go to www.iceoutofca.org/ca-values-act-sb54.html and click on the link "SB 54 Chart."

Marine Life Study Report Presentation this Friday

by Delia Bense-Kang

On behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Ocean Protection Council, and California Ocean Science Trust, we are excited to announce the release of the second North Coast Snapshot Report - A Changing Undersea Forest, all about the North Coast kelp and rocky reef ecosystems. This report is one in a series that highlights key information about what was happening in the waters of the North Coast region from 2014-2016.

To learn more about the results of baseline monitoring and long-term monitoring plans, we also invite you to attend a North Coast Community Gathering in your neighborhood. These will be held from 6 to 7:30 PM in Crescent City (November 1), Eureka (November 2), and **Fort Bragg (November 3)** at the Senior Center). We invite you to spread the word about the Community Gatherings and this snapshot report.

Stay tuned for the next installments in the Snapshot series in the coming weeks and more on the California North Coast page on OceanSpaces.org.

Correction: We apologize for the omission of our new director, Don Kirkpatrick, from the contact list last month. His info: 937-2832; kirk@mcn.org

About our links ... Unfortunately, not all links in this newsletter will work correctly for everyone. Try pasting the link into your browser, removing any extra spaces.

Partner organization activity ...

WALKING THE MIGRANT TRAIL

A talk with photos by Judy Stavely



ANDANDO RASTRO MIGRATORIO

Una conversación con fotos de Judy Stavely

Tues., November 7, 7pm / **Martes, 7 de noviembre, 7pm**
Mendocino Coast Jewish Community Shul in Caspar (in front of the Caspar Community Center)
La sinagoga de la comunidad judía de la costa (enfrente del Centro Comunitario de Caspar)

Judy participated in this annual 75-mile walk from Sásabe, Mexico, to Tucson, Arizona, to understand the experiences of migrants crossing the border every day and to remember those who have died.

Judy participó en este paseo anual de 75 millas de Sásabe, México, a Tucson, Arizona, para comprender las experiencias de los inmigrantes que cruzan la frontera cada día y para acordarnos de aquellos que han muerto.

In English and Spanish / **En inglés y Español** / Free / **Gratis**
Sponsored by the Mendocino Coast Jewish Community Justice Group

Mill Area Rezoning Process Continues

On October 16 the Fort Bragg City Council received a report from the Community Development Department which summarized the results of its workshops on planning and rezoning the old mill site area (see your October *Voter*). The Council took more public comments in its ongoing consideration of the issue. To see the report, go to the following site and click on its various components:

<https://cityfortbragg.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3188431&GUID=79725194-9AC1-4977-95D3-F2FD0978E89C&Options=&Search=>

The section called 2B: *Workshop Generated Land Use Plans* is a quick view of the outpouring of creativity the process has generated.

Global Warming Problem and Solution Discussed

by Jary Stavely

Comptche residents Randal and Janis MacDonald, of the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), presented a comprehensive description of global warming, and then offered their organization's plan for an effective response to it, at the League meeting on the evening of October 10. More than 32 attendees (the majority non-League-members) saw the graphics-filled presentation, which included specifics about the Carbon Fee and Dividend plan, which the CCL is promoting on an international level.

Mr. MacDonald opened his program with a reminiscence about his own mother, who was active in the League during the 1960's and afterwards, and expressed his admiration for what it does and has done. He pointed out that the ultimate victory of the women's suffrage movement, after an 80 year struggle, should give courage to those who now want to curtail the consumption of fossil fuels. In his view, environmentalists should emulate the perseverance and strength of those who ultimately founded the League of Women Voters.

Here are some salient points from the summary of environmental warming.

- There has been a 43% increase in atmospheric CO2 levels since the beginning of the industrial revolution.
- 16 of the past 17 years qualify as the warmest on record.
- Even with the best scenarios for curtailing greenhouse gas emissions, global warming will continue.
- Alaska and the arctic region are warming twice as fast as the rest of the world.
- A large percentage of the world's population, such as those living along the Ganges River, depend on water from glacial melt; what will happen when the glaciers disappear?
- There will be no summer ice in the Arctic Ocean by the 2040's.
- The oceans' increasing temperatures are disrupting currents like the Gulf Stream, which transfer warmth to higher latitudes.
- The oceans have absorbed 93% of all the

increase in global warmth, which has led to decreases in ocean oxygen levels, increases in acidity, and the decline of marine life, such as our local bull kelp.

- This summer's third bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef has been the worst one ever.
- Global warming is associated with the widely noted increase in extreme weather events: 1/4 of all recorded category 5 hurricanes occurred in 2017.

The Citizens Climate Lobby is working to convince governments around the world to adopt its Carbon Fee & Dividend Plan as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This plan involves three main elements: 1) a fee levied on all fossil fuel products at the time of their extraction; 2) all net revenue generated by the carbon fees to be distributed equally to all households in the governmental area (the dividend); 3) border adjustment tariffs imposed on goods imported from outside the fee area, to ensure that domestic producers are not penalized by the plan.

Mr. MacDonald shared some results from a study by REMI (Regional Economic Models, Inc.) which predict that the Carbon Fee & Dividend Program, if were adopted by the U.S., would:

- reduce CO2 emissions by 1/3 over the short term, and eventually by 1/2;
- create one million new jobs in 10 years, and 8 million in 20;
- boost GDP by \$70–85 billion/year;
- improve human health by reducing air pollution;
- add \$289/mo. to individual family incomes after 10 years, increasing to \$396 after 20.

He told the audience that British Columbia has successfully adopted a similar plan, which has popular support. That plan returns the dividends through tax credits, while the CCL prefers direct payments.

The CF&D plan was said to have support from both the left and right, including from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Bush economist Greg Mankiw. The U.S. House of Representatives caucus of support has increased from 18 members to 60.

The MacDonalds reviewed various ways individuals can combat global warming, among which was to lobby politicians (such as our Rep. Huffman) to control the consumption of fossil fuels. *(Continued next page)*

(Climate Change, cont'd)

They provided information about the Citizens Climate Lobby (which like the League is non-partisan and non-profit) as an effective means to channel such support, especially for the Carbon Fee & Dividend Plan. More information is available at <http://whatcanbedone.com/>. The CCL website is at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>. Randal's 50-minute presentation at the Caspar Community Center can be watched on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gp-4ucPrN1g>.

The Sea Also Rises

by Jary Stavelly

On the evening of October 24 the League hosted more than 40 people at a program exploring future sea level rise, both as a world phenomenon, and as to how it will affect California. Diz Swift, a trained geologist and Climate Change Director for the California League, presented the causes and dynamics of projected sea level rise due to the warming of our planet. Marie Jones, the Fort Bragg Community Development Director, shared information about its effects on our local coastline.

Ms. Swift displayed photos and graphs showing the loss of ice over the past 15 years, and explained that sea levels are rising for two reasons. First, as water warms it expands, so, as ocean temperatures rise, the ocean volume increases. Second, as land-based ice and glaciers melt, they add to the quantity of water in the oceans. Although the dramatic collapse of ice shelves in Antarctica doesn't add to the ocean's volume (because they are floating already), it does open the way for the glaciers behind them to flow faster to the sea.

Between 2002 and 2016 antarctic ice has been melting at the rate of 125 gigatons/year, and the rate is accelerating. The ice in Greenland is disappearing at the rate of 281 gigatons/year. Ms. Swift pointed out that during the time of the dinosaurs there was no ice in the oceans, which had a CO2 concentration of 1000 parts per million. At current projections, modern oceans will reach that same level of CO2 concentration by the year 2100.

She told the audience that the good news is that 2017 looks to be the peak year for the consumption

of fossil fuels, which will decline as renewable and solar energy sources take their place. She also takes heart that energy companies themselves have begun to figure out how to make money from renewables.

The discussion of sea level rise on the California coast began with the display of two "bathtub" models for increases in the SF Bay area. (A bathtub model merely shows higher levels against the existing topographic contour, without taking into account other changes such as erosion, which may be expected to take place as the change occurs.) The first map showed the effects of a one-meter rise, which would dramatically increase the extent of the bay, and would cause significant problems for SFO and Oakland airports, as well as for many wastewater treatment plants in the region. The second map showed a two-meter rise, which would bring ocean water into the cities of Petaluma, Napa, and Sacramento.

Marie Jones shared information from her 2009 study of sea level rise for the city of Fort Bragg, (which, she said, was one of the first places in California to develop a Climate Action Plan, in 2012). Because most of the city, including its wastewater treatment facility, is situated on coastal bluffs, sea level rise will have a less dramatic effect there. The study found that a ten-foot rise over 70 years would eliminate the Noyo River basin and marina, as well as the beach at Pudding Creek.

The Ocean Lake Mobile Home Park, across Highway 1 from the beach, would also be flooded. In the course of her remarks, Ms. Jones mentioned that the city expects to reduce its carbon footprint by 47% by means of solar panels to be installed on a floating cover to its new reservoir.

The program concluded with a review of ways in which individuals can make a difference in combating the causes of sea level rise. Suggestions from the League's online Climate Change packet were shown and discussed. The source for Diz Swift's presentation can be found at www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/docs/rising-seas-in-california-an-update-on-sea-level-rise-science.pdf. Or, you can search the web using "CA 2017 Sea Level Rise." Marie Jones' powerpoint presentation can be requested by email from voter@mcn.org.

League Endorses Measure B

The League board has authorized the following public message:

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County urges you to vote YES on Measure B, the Mendocino Mental Health Treatment Act. Mail balloting has already begun on this countywide initiative for improved mental health facilities in Mendocino County. Sheriff Tom Allman is supporting this measure because using law enforcement is neither the cheapest nor the most effective way to deal with mental health and addiction issues.

The proposal is similar to Measures AG and AH on the November 2016 ballot, which were favored by more than 66% of voters. The current proposal is an improvement, in supporters' eyes, because it provides for the funding, through a 1/8-cent sales tax, of ongoing services as well as facilities. Nobody wants to see expensive facilities shuttered because of lack of operating funds.

Although the League believes that spending priorities should normally be determined by legislatures (in this case, the Supervisors), we

believe that this dedicated tax is justified by the urgent need for mental health services in our County and the confidence it will create that the new facilities will have a long and productive life.

If you agree, please discuss this issue with your neighbors. We believe that the more they consider Proposition B, the likelier they are to vote YES.

Membership Report

by Jary Stavely

Our evening meetings this fall have brought out an increase in attendance from the public at large, and some new memberships, as well. Please welcome Peggy Smith, George Reinhardt, and Sarah Ginsky, who have all signed up as new members.

However, the evening meetings have been more difficult for some of our regular members to attend. If you don't mind driving at night, please offer a ride to someone you have missed seeing at our Caspar Community Center meetings. Please also help pass the word that now is the time for dues renewals. Our dues are the same as last year, \$60 for individuals and \$90 for two-member households, and can be mailed to LWVMC, P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

Renew Your Membership

With no increase in our dues, membership in The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County continues to be a bargain and a statement of commitment: to the ballot as a means for change, to providing non-biased information to voters, and to working on the issues that affect every member of our community. Dues for 2017-2018 cover the period up to September 2018.

- Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership ... \$60
- Amelia Bloomer Two-member Household Membership ... \$90
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership ... \$100 or more _____
- Carrie Chapman Catt Membership ... \$250 or more _____
- Donation to LWVMC ... _____
- Donation to LWVMC Education Fund (*tax deductible*)... _____

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

National Advocacy Update

LWVUS sent a letter to the U.S. Senate urging Senators to cosponsor and support the **We the People Democracy Reform Act** of 2017. The League says this legislation is a comprehensive solution to the issues facing our democracy. The reforms included will empower citizens and remove barriers to participation for all Americans, irrespective of political party. The Act provides an important roadmap for solving the vital issues facing our political system and serves as a vehicle to help renew Americans' faith that the problems facing our democracy can be solved. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senators to address this legislation.

The League supports the bipartisan **Honest Ads Act**, legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate that will improve transparency of online political ads, and particularly addresses the need for new rules to expose efforts undertaken by foreign interests to intervene in U.S. elections. The League joined 27 reform groups calling on Senators to support and cosponsor the legislation.

The League also joined a letter sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding scheduled **outages of healthcare.gov** during the shortened 2017 open enrollment period. The letter urges the department to restrict outages to typical website management efforts so that consumers shopping for, enrolling and re-enrolling in Marketplace health insurance are not affected.

Coastal Housing Team Continues to Meet

by Dorine Real

The Coastal Housing Action Team is a project of Healthy Mendocino, a countywide nonprofit. When Healthy Mendocino sponsors a project, it invites community members to establish both an inland and a coastal "Action Team" on the same topic. The coastal team to work on housing issues held its first meeting in August, and has been meeting on the second Thursday of each month.

At the October meeting, there was continuing discussion about the scope and focus of the group's

activities. We compared housing that addresses homelessness, special needs housing (e.g. for seniors and the mobility-impaired), and "workforce housing" (housing for workers, including professionals, needed by the community). We discussed the need to gather and share information about housing options, and to network with groups that are already working on aspects of the problem. In particular, several people want to learn more about Community Land Trusts as a mechanism for keeping housing affordable.

More substantively, we discussed a report prepared by Sarah McCormick of Fort Bragg City staff about vacant housing in the city. The City Council is concerned about housing issues, and has already taken steps, such as making pre-approved plans available to property owners who want to create second units. Now it is taking a look at bringing vacant housing into use. The Council's Community Development Committee commissioned the report to determine the extent of this opportunity and possible ways to take advantage of it. The report found that up to 12% of housing units in Fort Bragg are vacant (according to the U.S. Census), but only a fraction of them are easy to locate, and there is no obvious way to determine the reason for each vacancy. The report also included a list of nine possible action strategies used by other jurisdictions to encourage full use. These range from receivership of tax-delinquent properties, to incentives for making units available. All the enumerated strategies depend to some extent on identifying the vacant properties, determining why they are vacant, and making property owners aware of the opportunities, incentives, and/or penalties which they must consider. This means house-to-house surveying, which would be quite costly for the City. The Coastal Housing group discussed the possibility of helping with this work, if the City moves ahead. At next month's meeting, on November 9 at the Fort Bragg Library, we expect to hear from Supervisor Dan Gjerde about Airbnb. The growth of short-term rentals such as Airbnb is taking more and more units out of the primary housing pool, and Gjerde has been looking at ways to deal with this problem. We will also take a closer look at the Community Land Trust form of organization and how it might be implemented here. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. in the community conference room west of the main entrance.

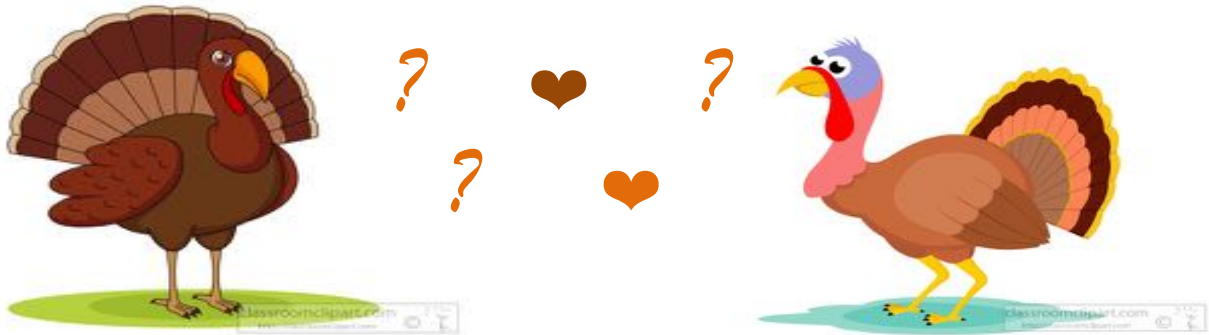
*LWVUS Initiative***"Setting the Table for Civility" Over the Holidays**

As part of the League's partnership with the National Institute for Civil Discourse, LWV members are invited to participate in "Setting the Table for Civility". This is an opportunity for individuals, as we gather with friends and family for the upcoming Thanksgiving and year-end holiday season, to take action to promote civility. It includes exploring three basic questions:

- What are you most thankful for about living in America?
- How do you feel about the deep divisions and incivility we see now in our country?

- What can we do to revive civility and respect and find more effective ways to listen to each other and work together?

Tools and materials are available (at <http://www.revivecivility.org/resources>) to support conversations at family gatherings, within faith communities, on campuses and on social media. This could be a great way to engage new members and to invite non-members to join the League in an activity that brings people together and helps us build more civil dialogue in communities.

**California League Reviews the Legislative Year**

The following is a letter from state President Helen Hutchinson addressed to online petition supporters:

Because so many of you took action, we're celebrating major legislative victories.

The California Values Act passed, ensuring state and local resources are not being used to fuel mass deportations, destroy families, and cripple our economy.

The passage of SB 2 and SB 3 will generate about \$5 billion for more affordable housing over the next five years.

Campaign ads will have to identify their big money donors prominently on tv, radio, online, and in print with the passage of the Disclose Act.

Community college students will be assessed more fairly, creating a clearer path to success and preventing them from being tracked into unnecessary non-credit remedial classes thanks to AB 705.

The passage of AB 918 means the millions of voters

with limited English skills will have access to more information in their language, including facsimile ballots—a critical step in ensuring all voices are heard on election day.

In addition to the many action alerts we sent, the League was also advocating for other bills at the Capitol. This year, Governor Brown signed ALL of the bills supported by the League that came across his desk! California now has 27 new League-approved laws, improving California's policies on the environment, education, voting rights, and more.

Unfortunately, our efforts to reform California's broken bail system were stalled, but we'll have another chance to fix that when SB 10 is taken up again next year. We're also looking forward to ongoing efforts to address the housing shortage and progress on key higher education bills. The League is also ready to take action on campaign finance reform and any legislative responses to new federal activity.