



# The Voter

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

May, 2017

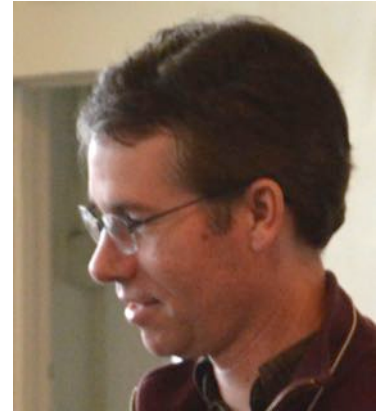
Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

### Annual Meeting Will Feature Mental Health Presentation

Our local League's Annual Meeting will be on May 9th at the Caspar Community Center. In addition to our annual business meeting, we will hear an overview of mental health services in Mendocino County, presented by Fourth District Supervisor Dan Gjerde and Camille Schraeder, the Executive Director of Redwood Quality Management Company (RQMC).

Redwood Children's Services, now Redwood Community Services, a part of RQMC, has been contracted by the County to provide such services to Mendocino County children for several years, and last year was given responsibility for providing them for adults as well, after problems were found with the previous contractor. Camille Schraeder is the founder of Redwood Community Services. This non-profit and nonsectarian agency provides specialized care and programs for children, youth, families and adults in



Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma Counties. Services include mental health crisis and behavioral health services, systems for foster and adoption parents, residential based programs for youth in need of a higher level of care, transitional housing, youth resource centers, and home based support services. The Ukiah Daily Journal has published a feature about Ms. Schraeder which may be read here:

<http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/article/NP/20160506/NEWS/160509920>

An initiative last fall to establish a permanent physical mental health facility in the county came within a half percentage point of the 2/3 vote necessary for passage. This shows that mental health is a high priority with Mendocino

County residents, so please reach out to your neighbors and invite them to this program.

The League Annual Meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m., with coffee and conversation available at 9:30. Members should bring bread, salad, or dessert to share for the luncheon, which will be augmented by delicious soups from the Westport Hotel.

#### **ADMIT ONE (OR MORE)**

League of Women Voters of Mendocino County  
**Annual Meeting**  
May 9th, 2017 at 10 a.m.  
Caspar Community Center

\* To vote in the annual election, you must be a current member. Others are welcome to attend.

#### **LWW 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*

## **An Active Year**

*by Cindy Plank*

What a busy and exciting year our local Mendocino League has had! This time last year we were preparing for a local ballot measure forum and a judge candidate forum. Then last September and October were fully packed with activity with two Pro/Con meetings regarding the many measures to be voted on in November. And because of feedback from members at our annual May meeting, we followed through with one of the suggested areas of focus by holding a Mental Health ballot information meeting, presented by Sheriff Tom Ailman. We also held three other candidate forums in October. Whew!

January 2017, and it was time for program planning. That 2nd Tuesday was a 'dark and stormy' morning (as those of you who packed the room will remember!). And what a lot of wonderful discussion we enjoyed. We settled on five areas of focus through June 2018. **Mental Health** continued to be an area of interest, as well as **Health Care**, **Immigration**, and the **Environment**. Plus, we agreed that the National LWV's initiative of **Making Democracy Work** was of utmost importance for our entire country at this critical point in our history. Many of you, our valuable members, agreed to help with one or more area of focus. Thank you. You are so very appreciated, and we encourage you to share your ideas. Our goal is to partner in these areas of focus with other local groups for the benefit of our entire community.

On January 21<sup>st</sup> a large group of our LWVMC members participated in the Fort Bragg Women's March. It was an exciting and invigorating day. In February, under the **Health Care** topic, League members and the public enjoyed an interesting presentation from Mendocino Coast District Hospital CEO Bob Edwards, and Board Chair Steve Lund. Then it was suddenly spring time and we experienced record attendance at our annual Meet & Greet for locally elected officials – and it wasn't even an election year! It's obvious we are an enthused community.

At our most recent April meeting, and under the **Environment** topic, Mendocino Land Trust Executive Director, Ann Cole, shared valuable information and perspectives about our federal lands and our environment. There are many potential concerns brewing across America that we all need to stay aware of, and be ready to take action on, through advocacy. A few of us also gave those in attendance a short 'guerrilla theatre' presentation describing how an environmental protection law/regulation comes to be and how it's enforced. Written and led by Co-President Nancy Kleiber, we had some fun pretending to be Members of Congress, the President, Agencies, the Supreme Court, and Special Interests. (Check out the article on p. 6 for more details and a picture.)

Throughout the past few months League members have attended local meetings regarding **Immigration** issues. LWVMC is partnering with the Mendocino Jewish Community Justice Group to spread the word about their objective to establish a Citizen Scholarship Fund. (More info about this project can be found on p. 4.) We also are encouraging our members and other community members to consider volunteering with the Adult School to tutor prospective citizens with the study of Civics. This endeavor fits within both **Immigration** and **Making Democracy Work** focus areas.

Please join us at our Annual meeting, May 9<sup>th</sup> as we focus again on **Mental Health** with Supervisor Dan Gjerde and RCS/RQMC Executive Director Camille Schraeder sharing important information about mental health issues in Mendocino County. (Read all about it on p. 1.)

Be ready to dive into these 5 crucial topics with us throughout the next many months, as we advocate for our community in conjunction with what's going on nationally. Another way to advocate is to encourage your friends and neighbors to join us in our work. There are many small ways to serve.

Thank you, fellow League members, for your continued valuable involvement.



## Health Care Forum Proposed

by Sharon Gilligan

As the debate over the Affordable Care Act escalates and other plans are put forth, it is good to remember that the League has long believed that “a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents.” In pursuit of that goal, the League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of insurance premiums, essentially a single payer system operating like a Medicare for All program. Although it has enthusiastically favored single payer legislation for California in the past, the state League has taken no position on SB 562, as it is still in an incomplete form. Encouraged by a community member who is working hard on this issue, and in response to the recently introduced California SB562, the Healthcare project group proposes to hold an informational forum on how a single payer system might work. We are aiming for a date in the early fall. Ideally we would like to have a panel which is representative of the health care providers, the insurance industry and the political sphere, to discuss the many aspects of the plan. We are not intending this as a pro/con debate. If you have suggestions for someone who might be willing to participate in this forum, or if you would like to join our healthcare action committee and work on preparations, please contact me at [sharongilligan@comcast.net](mailto:sharongilligan@comcast.net). The League's position on universal health care can be found at <http://lww.org/content/health-care>.

*LWV California 2017 Convention*

## A Capitol Connection In Sacramento

by Cindy Plank

Remember our January planning meeting? We talked about and decided on which areas we felt were crucial for our local League, and which areas of focus to suggest for LWV California. Next month, Nancy Kleiber, Jane Person, Carol Czadek and I will join League members from all over the state at the convention in Sacramento to represent LWVMC as we participate in providing direction to LWV California for the next two years.

And we are excited! There is Lobby Day, when a couple of us will meet with our district's state senator and congressman. During the convention, there will be loads of discussions and debates on various issues, followed by voting. There will be informal planning sessions on specific topics, such as health care, prison reform, immigration. And, of course, there will be speakers. Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg are only two of the many speakers lined up.

Best of all, local League delegates from all over the state will inspire and energize each other, sharing best practices and solutions League to League. Does this sound like fun to you? Perhaps you could be one of our delegates next time, to bring the weight and ideas from our local League to the state or national convention!

## A Hello and a Goodbye

by Jary Stavelly, *Membership Chair*

Please welcome new member Paula Cohen of Little River, who joined on the spot at our March Meet & Greet gathering. Paula is the past director of the Mendocino Coast Clinics and is currently involved with the Mendocino Community Foundation. We regret to say that Janet Morris is moving to the Santa Rosa area, and will be transferring her membership down that way.

## Let Democracy Bloom

by Dorine Real

The 2017 LWVMC Virtual Garden Tour has brought in \$1,415. The beautiful invitations with matching envelopes (designed by Becky Bowen) lured 35 visitors to the annual event. Invitees received a custom garden row marker for Voting Rights (created by Cindy Plank), to inspire us to tend our own gardens. Let's also grow lots of heirloom varieties like Civility, Equality, Civics Education, Tolerance, Free Speech, Involvement, Transparency ... What are *you* growing this year?

## Justice Group Initiates Citizenship Scholarship Project

*Editor's note: In the interest of partnering with other groups pursuing action on Immigration, we offer the following announcement from the Mendocino Coast Jewish Community (MCJC) Justice Group:*

**Background:** It is estimated that approximately 8 million people in our country are eligible for citizenship. While we don't know an exact number of people in our Coast community who are eligible for citizenship, we know of several individuals and have heard estimates of at least 20 local people who fit this description. The citizenship process is time consuming and costly, among the many reasons why so many people have not reached this goal. The Citizenship Filing Fee alone is \$725, just a portion of the financial burden involved. In response we decided to support members of our community in their efforts to become citizens.

**Objective:**

- As an initial effort to financially assist people in our community working toward citizenship, MCJC Justice Group has created a Citizenship Scholarship Fund (CSF).
- The CSF will provide a \$725 scholarship to eligible students ready to pay the Citizenship Filing Fee.
- Fort Bragg instructor Anne Thomas expects to have about 20 students complete the Citizenship Class in 2017. Students from her class ready to file for citizenship would be eligible to receive CSF scholarships on a first come basis.

**Initial Goal:** Ten Scholarships for 2017 (\$7250). If the \$7250 goal is reached well before the end of 2017, we will raise the bar by \$725 increments.

**Funding the Citizenship Scholarships:** Checks may be made out to MCJC and earmarked for the CSF. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Send checks to: MCJC (Citizenship Scholarship) P.O. Box 291, Little River, CA 95456. Special fundraising events will be scheduled throughout the year. If you are interested in hosting a CSF event, please contact Jeannette Rasker --<mailto:jrasker1@gmail.com>.

*"Wherever you have friends,  
that is your country  
Wherever you receive love,  
that is your home"  
— Old Tibetan Saying*

*"If I am not for myself,  
who will be for me?  
If I am only for myself,  
what am I?  
And if not now,  
when?"  
— Rabbi Hillel*

## It's Not Too Early to Renew Your Membership for 2017-18

As you know, the vast majority of your dues is passed on to the U.S. and California Leagues, and we are prouder than ever to partner with them. In addition to regular and household memberships, we are pleased to offer two additional levels of membership so that you can support our local League's activities. Thank you for being one of a group of women and men committed to making a difference in our country's future.

### Membership Renewal, 2017-2018

Name	_____
Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership	@ \$60 _____
Amelia Bloomer Household Membership	@ \$90 _____
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership	@ \$100 _____
Carrie Chapman Catt Membership	@ \$250 _____
Donation to LWVMC	_____
Donation to LWVMC Education Fund (tax deductible)	_____
Total	_____

*Please make checks payable to LWVMC. You can print this page and mail with your check to P.O. Box 1128, Ft. Bragg CA 95437. Sorry, only Education Fund donations are tax-deductible.*

## Representative Huffman Talks with Constituents

by Jary Stavelly

On Wednesday afternoon, April 19th, Representative Jared Huffman held the tenth in a series of town hall meetings scheduled throughout California's sprawling 2nd District during the current Congress' Spring recess. A crowd of coastal residents nearly filled the 900-seat Cotton Auditorium in Fort Bragg, which had replaced the Veterans' Building as the site for interested citizens to ask questions directly of their national Representative.

Rep. Huffman, who reported a high degree of interest in the current political situation throughout his district, had met with over 6,000 constituents in this series of meetings so far. He described the climate in Washington as "deep, dark, troubling times," with daily efforts in Congress to roll back environmental and consumer protections and to deregulate the conduct of private business. Without minimizing the extent to which important issues are threatened, he suggested that the response in his district to the Trump Administration and its congressional supporters represents a gratifying awakening of public interest and involvement. He also stressed the need for "civil discourse" in policy discussions.

Members of the audience presented questions on a range of issues. A few samples follow:

A special prosecutor for the investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election?

—Mr. Huffman is glad that Rep. Nunes is no longer leading the congressional investigation, but feels that the investigation really needs to be held by a bipartisan independent commission; the problem with a special prosecutor is that such a person would be appointed by the partisan Attorney General Sessions.

The city of Fort Bragg's vulnerability to retaliation from the federal government for protecting immigrants from intimidation, such as the loss of eligibility for a Community Development Block Grant?

—He feels that the Constitution and the law are on the "sanctuary city" side of the issue; he is

heartened that so many communities have expressed to immigrants the wish that "we want you here," that they will be protected and respected.

How to make the House receptive to single-payer health care?

—He is proud to have been a supporter and co-sponsor for single-payer in Congress; he feels that at this point an incremental approach might be best: opening up Medicare for "early buy-in" (for people not yet 65) or adding a "public option" to insurance choices available under the Affordable Care Act.

What about the ban on offshore oil exploration and development off our coastline?

—The longstanding ban is suddenly way more threatened than ever, surprisingly so; a filibuster in the Senate is a safeguard, but if that disappears ...

Questions were raised about abolishing the electoral college, opposing corporate hegemony, choosing strategies for political change, protecting women's health, the status of "Dreamers" under this administration, presidential acts of war, climate change denial, protecting demonstrators such as those at Standing Rock, the use of school vouchers to promote religion-based education, new hours restricting access at post offices, and carbon pricing.

One topic did not focus on the new realities in Washington. Two veterans brought up the implementation of the Veteran's Choice Act, which was enacted to make access to health care easier for Veterans (such as those living in Mendocino County) located far from VA health centers. Rep. Huffman deplored the fact that regulations have yet to make the law work as well as it was intended to, but said he and others are working to improve them.

Aide Heather Gurewitz walked a microphone throughout the auditorium, giving citizens the opportunity to speak and ask questions, and the event lasted an extra 30 minutes at Mr. Huffman's request. Yet there were many more who raised hands for recognition. If you, too, had a question and did not get to ask it, please share it with us at the *Voter* ([voter@mcn.org](mailto:voter@mcn.org)). We will be happy to publish a further collection of your concerns.

*April meeting*

## League Studies Threats to Public Lands

*by Jary Stavely*

League member Ann Cole, the executive director of the Mendocino Land Trust, spoke at the April 11th League meeting about threats to publicly owned lands in our county, and also shared updates about the current activities of the Land Trust. She identified three major threats to the preservation of land in the political situation we currently face.

The first area of concern involves the monuments clause of the 1906 Antiquities Act, by which several recent Presidents have created national preserves, including the Bears' Ears Preserve in Utah, the Stornetta Lands addition to the California Coastal National Monument, and the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, part of which extends into northeastern Mendocino County. The President and many lawmakers have expressed concern about the use of this law to put limits on private development, and wish to reverse several recent federal acquisitions. An Associated Press article in the April 26th edition of the Press Democrat reports recent statements by the administration on the issue, as well as reactions from local Congressmen Huffman and Thompson.

The second area of concern involves the threat of selling public lands, such as those administered by BLM, back to the states. The rules package passed in Congress on the first day of this year's session included a clause which says that any transfer of public lands must be "budget neutral," a way of making it possible to sell off public lands to states or even private interests without a true consideration of its value to the public. Although a first attempt by Utah Rep. Chaffetz to declare federal property as surplus and available for sale was defeated by a coalition of hunters and environmentalists, federal lands remain threatened by this process.

The third area of concern centers around the budgetary plans of the Trump Administration. Funding for the Department of the Interior is slated for a reduction of \$120M, which would represent a

huge hit for both maintenance and acquisition. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has been the source for many of the Land Trust's acquisitions in the county, is slated for drastic reductions and even elimination. If funding for it is cut, future preservation of land and development of trails for recreation will be seriously curtailed.

Ms. Cole announced the recent national accreditation of her organization, and summarized some its local activities: tree planting, the promotion of sustainable forestry, salmon restoration, and the removal of old logging roads for stream rehabilitation. She concluded her remarks by telling about its current initiative to provide a network of electric vehicle charging stations in our area, two of which are already in place, one at Russian Gulch State Park and the other at Hendy Woods.



*Also at the April meeting, an introduction to the process by which multiple players shape an environmental regulation was presented in the form of a skit written and narrated by Nancy Kleiber. Jane Person played environmentalist groups and Jary Stavely represented Federal agencies. Photo by Lee Tepper.*

## New Life for the ERA

by Jary Stavely

An article by Eleanor Bader published online by Truthout suggests that "a revitalized campaign to pass the Equal Rights Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution is now underway, fueled in part by outrage over the publication of then-candidate Trump's statements about women during the campaign, and by his subsequent inauguration. The ERA, which was originally written in 1923, and passed by the required super-majority in Congress in 1972, had, by 1979, been approved by 35 of the 38 states necessary for its ratification, but then failed to gain another state in spite of an extension of a supposed deadline for action.

On March 1, 2017 Nevada became the 36th state to approve it. According to the president of the ERA Coalition, enacting the amendment could proceed in one of two different ways. Congress could either start over, passing the ERA again by a two-thirds majority, and sending it back to the states for re-approval, or it could waive the 1982 approval deadline and allow additional states to add to the list of 35. Bills for both approaches have been submitted to the Judiciary Committees of both houses. The article lists several members of the ERA Coalition, including the AAUW, NOW, YWCA, the Feminist Majority Foundation, and the National Women's Political Caucus.

Of the 14 states yet to approve the amendment, organizers are said to be focusing on Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, and Virginia, as the most likely ones now to ratify. The full article may be found at <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/40272-trump-sexism-provokes-new-effort-to-pass-the-era>

## Forgotten Letters Remind Us of Voting Rights Struggle

In a March 29th article in the *New York Times*, Jennifer Schuesser described an amazing recent discovery that sheds additional light on the women's suffrage struggle:

"It was 1874, a challenging year for [Susan B. Anthony](#) and the women's suffrage movement. She had been convicted of illegally voting in Rochester,



*Isabella Beecher Hooker, left, and Susan B. Anthony*

her hometown, and activists were split over the best way to push the movement forward.

On April 9, Anthony wrote to a fellow activist named Isabella Beecher Hooker, looking ahead to better days.

'Now wouldn't it be splendid for us to be free & equal citizens, with the power of the ballot to back our hearts, heads & hands,' Anthony wrote, envisioning a time when women could also fight for 'the poor, the insane, the criminal,' armed not just with moral suasion but 'with power too.'

It would be 46 more years before the 19th Amendment guaranteed women the right to vote. The letter, saved by Hooker, ended up stashed in a wooden box along with nearly a hundred others relating to the suffrage struggle. And there they sat for more than a century, unknown to historians or seemingly anyone else.

Now, the letters have been acquired by the University of Rochester as part of a larger trove of material that some are calling the biggest discovery of its kind in decades."

These letters are also a reminder that the strength of our movement was built on the strength of personal relationships.

The full article can be found at [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/29/arts/womens-suffrage-collection-susan-b-anthony.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/29/arts/womens-suffrage-collection-susan-b-anthony.html?_r=0)

## A Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

Although this is our last issue until September, the new League year is just about to get started, and we will be keeping in touch through Facebook and e-mails. We will not have monthly members' meetings during the summer, but the topic groups will be meeting and doing projects and we will let everyone know about their activities. If you initiate or take part in an activity in one of our focus areas, please let us know by posting to the Facebook page or sending an e-mail to [voter@mcn.org](mailto:voter@mcn.org). Simple actions like writing a letter to your representative or attending an informational meeting are important, not least because they remind other people that they are not working alone.

Your Voter editorial team,

*Jary, Dorine, and Lee*

P.S. One such simple action is to renew your membership. See the form on p. 4.

*We were there ...*

## March in Favor of Science Held in Fort Bragg

*by Jary Stavelly*

More than 350 people turned out on April 22nd in Fort Bragg for the locally organized version of the national March for Science. Participants carrying signs, globes, and even wearing white lab coats paraded from Town Hall to Bainbridge Park for speeches and refreshments, before proceeding to the Noyo Food Forest for the traditional Earth Day Festival. Local scientists Tanya Smart and Leslie Kashiwada, high school students Henry Thomas and Miriam Kashiwada, and science teachers Ryan Olson-Day and Tyler Grinberg addressed the crowd at the park about the need for objective science in public policy making during this period of global

warming, as well as about the threats to society posed by the dissemination of "alternative facts" in the media and Congress. March organizers passed out cards for following environment-related legislation in Washington through GovTrack.us or [Congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/](http://Congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/).

*Editor's note: Readers may remember Henry Thomas from his address on citizenship at the League's Annual Meeting two years ago, when he was an eighth grader. His speech at Bainbridge Park was recorded by local resident Tom Tetzlaff and can be viewed here*

<https://youtu.be/G3pDpOMeanA>

*League members participating in the Earth Day March for Science included Nancy Kleiber, Irene Malone, Kendall Smith, and Rachel Binah. Photo by Marcia Williams*

