



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

March, 2018

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

Annual March event

Let's Meet and Greet Our Local Officials

By Jary Stavely

Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster, 4th District Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino College trustee Robert Pinoli, and Mendocino Unified Schools chief Jason Morse are among those planning to attend the League's 13th annual Meet & Greet Your Public Officials reception, set for Friday, March 16th, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Caspar Community Center. Four candidates vying for the 5th District Supervisor seat in the June primary election will also be on hand.

More than 80 local, city and county elected officials have been invited to meet voters in this informal,

*You are cordially invited to
Meet and Greet
Our Elected Officials
Friday, March 16th,
from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Caspar Community Center*

casual setting, with no agenda, no speeches and no formal program. The invitation list includes officials and leaders from Mendocino College, the City of Fort Bragg, the Mendocino Coast District Hospital, the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District, coastal school, water and fire districts, and more.

Wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres will be served. League members, if you can help with food (no sweets, please), please deliver it by 4:45. If you have questions, contact Patricia Marien at 964-4942 or paprika@mcn.org. Meet and Greet Your Public Officials is free and open to the public. We hope to see you there, and please bring a friend.



Past guests District Attorney David Eyster (left); Sheriff Tom Allman (center, with Meg Courtney); MCDH trustee Dr. Peter Glusker

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

Join Me

by Nancy Kleiber

I'm a very independent woman—not married—but I'm not too proud to admit that I need colleagues, companions, cohorts, and fellow-travelers (that's a loaded term) in my quest to follow my passion, or as Joseph Campbell puts it, "my bliss." (Does this begin to sound like a dating site blurb—wrong.) My passion(s)—and the plural is part of my problem—are to save my beautiful ocean from the rape of oil drilling; to safeguard my long-term immigrant neighbors from gestapo-esque midnight raids; to protect the free public schools that I grew up in from being defunded and denatured; to safeguard all of us from anyone wielding an AR-15 etc.; and last, but what I've come to realize should be first, to preserve

and to exercise the sacred American Right-to-Vote.

The League of Women Voters nationally is proposing 'Making Democracy Work' as the program theme for the next two years. If pressured to limit myself to one issue, I confess that 'Making Democracy Work' is not what immediately comes to mind. On second thought, it's a very strong archway. Within my individual bill of rights, I've tried lots of methods to amplify my voice: from marching to civil disobedience, from daily petition signing to as many small contributions as I can afford. All of it helps to raise issues and define positions, but ultimately, you've got to vote them in or vote them out—as the students from Parkland discovered when Florida state legislators were deaf to their pleas to take up the issue of gun control.

That's why the League of Women Voters has become my megaphone. The League studies all of the issues that impact my life, arrives at positions through consensus, lobbies our elected officials at all levels of government, multiplies our individual influence in the civic conversation and protects our voting rights all across the country. Join me.

LWVUS Celebrates Women's History Month

by Chris Carson, LWVUS President

From Sojourner Truth to Alice Paul to Amelia Boynton Robinson, history is filled with courageous women who fought for the right to vote. March is Women's History Month, and it's the perfect time to celebrate *all* of the women who fought — many of them beaten, jailed, or both — to end discrimination at the polls.

Our focus on suffragists both historical and modern is not only tied to Women's History Month, it's another reminder of our critical mission, in 2018, 2020, and beyond. Countless Americans still face obstacles to the ballot box — and voter suppression laws disproportionately affect women.

Voter photo ID laws impact women in greater numbers because one-third of all women have citizenship documents that don't identically match their current names — due primarily to name changes at marriage.

And when early voting is restricted, some women are again negatively affected. Women are over-represented in low-wage jobs and thousands of women are unable to take time off on Election Day to vote. For those women, early voting can make the difference between active participation and total disenfranchisement from elections.

By bringing women into the electoral process, those suffragists — famous or not — helped reshape our political landscape. And as we've seen in recent elections, that reshaping is ongoing. As we at the League see it, the best way to celebrate these women is to continue their fight to ensure that every eligible person is able to register and vote. And we can't do this without you. So, in honor of Carrie Chapman Catt, Ida B. Wells, Anna Julia Cooper, or your own personal favorite suffragist "shero", help the League further its mission today.

February meeting

League Members Tackle Program Planning

by Jary Stavely & Dorine Real

Twenty League members gathered at the Caspar Community Center on the morning of February 13 to review our League's activities since January of 2017 and to set goals for the coming 2018–19 program year. It was also time to give input to the national League about the priorities it will adopt at its June convention in Chicago.

Nancy Kleiber identified the tasks to be accomplished during the meeting. First, to make recommendations for the national League's focus for the next two years. Second, to take stock of our local efforts over the past year. Third, to adopt next year's local priorities. She reviewed the national priorities for last year, which were "Making Democracy Work" in four areas: Voting Rights Advocacy, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance, and Redistricting. The California League also adopted the national framework, with the additions of focussing on the protection of natural resources and responding to changing federal government policies.

The national League has proposed to continue the Making Democracy Work emphasis for the coming biennium. After a discussion during which some members advocated adding a focus on Climate Change, and others felt that having too broad a focus could blunt the League's effectiveness, it was agreed that our unit would endorse the continuation of the Making Democracy Work program, with a reminder that keeping Climate Change in the public consciousness is also of the utmost importance.

Cindy then drew the audience's attention to charts which summarized the six areas of education and

action which our local unit worked on last year: Democracy, The Environment, Immigration, Health Care, Mental Health & Homelessness, and Organization Building (not an explicit program topic, but a pursuit of the board). In looking over the list of what we had done over the past year, the consensus was that we had done well in attempting to educate ourselves and the community about our concerns, and in supporting partner groups, but without, perhaps, completing as much action as we had hoped for.

The setting local goals portion of the meeting started off with a discussion of our basic strategy: do we want to pursue the same topics, narrow our focus to fewer topics, add or substitute new topics. No new topics were proposed, since a variety of interests that were brought up seemed to have homes within the current six topics. George Reinhardt proposed that we include working towards environmentally conscious planning for the Fort Bragg mill site as part of our environmental focus.

The co-presidents then invited the audience to participate in the time-honored process of assigning dots to their priorities. Yellow dots were used for people to show interest in a topic. Green dots came next: placing a green dot signified a commitment to be a leader, that is, take the initiative on at least one project in that subject area. A "project" could be as small as writing a letter to our Congressman, or as big as you can imagine. A list of suggestions for action/advocacy projects was passed around.

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(Planning, continued ...)

After the green dots were posted, participants used signup sheets to find their affinity groups. Pink dots indicated volunteers to “clerk” a particular group. (“Clerk” is a contact person, who keeps track of members and meetings and receives and forwards information among the group.)

Democracy will be our biggest focus, including the national campaign for Making Democracy Work, our traditional voter service activities, and an effort on behalf of civil discourse. Dorine Real will clerk the Democracy group, with Meg Courtney chairing the civil discourse subgroup. If everyone follows through on their green-dot commitment, we should accomplish at least 28 activities on democracy in the next two years; 19 of them will be in addition to our traditional voter service activities.

Environment will also be a concentration. Climate change got enough greens to deserve a subgroup, but no specific projects have been proposed yet. Offshore oil has a project “in the pipeline”: a presentation, hopefully by Rachel Binah, at a future members’ meeting. Planning for the mill site got three greens and a big attendance at its huddle at the end of the meeting. Jane Person will be general clerk, Babs Levine will clerk offshore oil, and George Reinhardt is the leader for mill site advocacy, while Jary Stavely is the contact person. Climate change people, find each other and get a clerk. If everyone follows through, we should accomplish at least 12 environment actions. Organizational Development made a strong showing (8 greens), particularly in the area of expanding and diversifying membership. Jim Havlena will clerk this.

Topic areas that had less energy behind them will become dormant. Sharon Gilligan (Health – Hospital) and Jary Stavely (Immigration – Immigrant Rights) will be caretakers. We don’t have a caretaker for Behavioral Health.

Two subgroups, Civil Discourse and Mill Site Development, began making plans on the spot.

Action/Advocacy Examples

- Send letters to congress
- Host a postcard party
- Invite a speaker
- Schedule/assist with a candidate forum
- Organize a voter registration
- Circulate a petition
- Write a letter to the editor
- Observe/report a public meeting (e.g. mental health commission, city council)
- Organize a march
- Develop a new member initiative
- Organize an informational event with local partner group
- Plan an educational program
- Organize cleanup after a meeting
- Host a small LWV info social
- Act as a liaison with high school/college students

Note: The following announcements were made at the meeting:

- Babs Levine has information about our local effort on behalf of the California League's campaign to reform the loophole in Prop 13, which allows corporations to avoid paying a fair share of property tax (*see story on p. 6*).
- Jary Stavely has materials and petitions from the League of Washington, D.C. which advocate statehood for the District of Columbia, an effort which the national League has endorsed for a number of years.
- Cindy reminded the audience that a number of local people traveled to Sacramento on February 8 to testify against the current administration's plan to open oil drilling off the California coast, and that the period for written comments closes on March 6. ([Submit comments](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=BOEM-2017-0074-0001) at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=BOEM-2017-0074-0001>.)

Ending the Cycle of the Unthinkable

by Cindy Plank

LWV has had a position on gun safety for many years, and the women & men of LWV support regulating firearms for consumer safety.

This position was last amended in 1998, 20 years ago, and the topic is still a divisive one in America.

Why are the rules for purchasing guns in some states easier than it is to obtain a driver's license? Why can citizens purchase military-grade weapons, but not drive a NASCAR down a city street?

Gun safety has been a hot topic for so many years, various activist groups have been pushing for change for so long, that many people have grown to believe it may be impossible to see consensus for improvement.

But there seems to be a change going on in America.

Students, parents, teachers, gun owners, non-gun owners, citizens representing various political groups, all are speaking up about the need for better gun safety. Every day there are news articles and opinion pieces voicing the need for better enforcement of current laws, and the addition of laws to address the availability of newer and more dangerous firearms. This is not a partisan issue. This is an issue that affects Americans across all political views.

Emma Gonzales, Stoneman Douglas HS student recently wrote that students are told that if they see something wrong, to speak up. But she is realizing that not everyone is happy with what they are saying, now that the topic is guns. She went on to state, "At the end of the day, we don't want people to have their guns taken away. We just want the people to be more responsible."

Emma is only one of many articulate Stoneman Douglas HS students who have been speaking out for change and the right to be safe. If it seems a surprise that so many courageous students of Stoneman Douglas HS are such effective political activists, it's because of their founder. Their high school was named for Marjory Stoneman Douglas, a political activist, born in 1912, who fought for women's suffrage, cared for wounded soldiers during WWI and was the primary activist in protecting the Florida Everglades from destruction.

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Gun Control, as Adopted by 1990 Convention and amended by the 1994 and 1998 Conventions:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

The League supports a ban on "Saturday night specials," enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

Be a nuisance where it counts; do your part to inform and stimulate the public to join your action. Be depressed, discouraged, and disappointed at failure and the disheartening effects of ignorance, greed, corruption and bad politics – but never give up.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas

NOT giving up is exactly what these kids are doing. And that includes students from all over America who are speaking out. This powerful message is from Emma Donnelly, a senior at Eastside HS in Gainesville, Florida:

"Shaking with tears of raw anger as I write, I am directing this message to all of the current and future politicians who want to have my vote.

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(Ending the Cycle, continued ...)

I will be voting in the next election along with many others in the class of 2018. We are standing together and we will be heard. ... We will not tolerate politicians who are lenient on gun regulations. You will feel the impact of Generation Z as we come into voting age. ... Politicians will feel the difference that my generation makes. We will be the ones to end this cycle of the unthinkable.”

These two young women represent some of the fierce activists, the young adults, the *catalysts* we have been waiting for in America’s struggle to make our citizens safer. These young adults are our future, this is their America, and they need us to listen to them and to fully support them.

“So march with us on March 24. Register to vote. Actually show up to the polls.”

Emma Gonzalez, Stoneman Douglas HS

A Call to Help “Make It Fair”

By Helen Hutchison, California League President

We’re engaged in the fight of a generation. This November, voters will finally have the opportunity to reform Prop 13—closing the corporate loophole that has allowed big business to pocket billions of dollars annually and restoring that funding to our local communities.

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 will provide up to \$10 *billion* every year in new funding for schools, health clinics, local services, and infrastructure.

Our measure received [title and summary from the Attorney General](#) on February 20.

Now we need your help to gather signatures and get it on the ballot! Reforming Prop 13 is the California League’s highest priority this year—and we can’t win this fight without you! How can you help? [Fill out our participation survey](#) and volunteer to:

- gather signatures
- secure organization and association endorsements
- help your local League reach out to elected officials

And if you can, please [donate to support our campaign](#).

LWVUS Supports Dreamers

The National League issued a strong statement during the debates about renewing the DACA program, and urged its members to contact Congress in support of legislation which would allow Dreamers to continue to live and work in the United States:

“This administration has done little but implement policies that endorse discrimination against immigrants and communities of color. As a country of immigrants, we are made stronger by our diversity, and that we have crude and bigoted slurs emerging from the Oval Office is shameful. This, now denied, comment from President Trump occurred during a meeting around a bipartisan compromise to extend protections on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA); a policy the administration called an end for last year. The League of Women Voters urges our leaders to pass a clean DREAM Act to protect, not turn away, the 800,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children. We support the Dreamers, who are Americans in everything but the name.

We can and we must do better to be vigilant about speaking out against racism. We must stand up as a nation and say this is unacceptable.”

Although Congress has as yet done nothing, federal courts have stayed the administration’s attempt to end the program. Readers may be interested to note what USAToday published about this week’s Supreme Court refusal to intervene:

“With two brief sentences, the Supreme Court on Monday dramatically changed the debate over the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the fate of nearly 700,000 undocumented immigrants who are part of it. The uncertainty hovering over the program had left DACA enrollees terrified over their future and left Congress so conflicted that DACA negotiations contributed to a three-day government shutdown last month. By refusing to hear a California case, the high court ensured that DACA will survive at least through the fall, giving DACA enrollees a temporary reprieve from deportation and Congress more time to craft a permanent solution for them.”

Events on the Mendocino Coast

International Women's Day

March 8

by Maggie Watson

With the findings of the World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Gender Gap Report telling us that at the present rate gender parity is over 200 years away, there has never been a more important time to keep motivated and Press for Progress. And with global activism for women's equality fueled by movements like #MeToo and #TimesUp, there is a strong global momentum for feminine leadership.

(Read [the report](https://www.wherewomenwork.com/Career/640/Global-Gender-Gap-WorldEconomicForum) at <https://www.wherewomenwork.com/Career/640/Global-Gender-Gap-WorldEconomicForum>)

In our county today many women successfully lead organizations, businesses, government departments and community activities that improve the health and well-being for all residents. March 8 is a day to both honor and reflect on the role these women play in making Mendocino a better county. Two events on the Mendocino Coast will be open for all to participate.

The Mendocino Coast Women in Business Network (WIBN) and the Women's Business Center of Mendocino will host a community pot luck breakfast gathering and storytelling event. "We all learn best about ourselves and the lives of others through storytelling," states Maggie Watson, longtime WIBN member and owner of Mendocino Fiduciary. This event will allow us to connect and be inspired through personal stories of courage and growth. The event will be held on March 8 at the Caspar Community Center. The door opens at 7:30 a.m. Program begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 10 a.m. For [more information](https://www.eventbrite.com) go to <https://www.eventbrite.com>.

The second event will be an evening reception and presentation on Emerging Feminine Leadership: 7 Habits of Highly Successful Women Leaders by Mary O'Connor. Ms. O'Connor is an award-winning and inspiring business coach, founder of The Ecstatic Entrepreneur, a training and coaching company that helps entrepreneurs overcome "self-promotion anxiety disorder." A national public speaker, Mary speaks on Client Attraction, Marketing, and the Sacred Energy of Money. This

event will be held on March 8 at Fort Bragg Town Hall. with doors opening at 5:30 p.m., and program at 6 p.m. It will be hosted by West Company, a nonprofit business development organization focused on helping businesses thrive in today's marketplace.

"Today you cannot underestimate the capacity that women, of all ages, have to inspire, contribute and lead the way to a more sustainable and successful economy," stated Mary Anne Petrillo, CEO of West Company. "We need to learn from and value more, the power of feminine leadership." To register for this event: <https://femaleleaders.eventbrite.com>

... and don't miss the **International Women's Day Celebration and Dance** at Town Hall on March 10 from 6:30 to 9:30. For information contact tenayamr@gmail.com.

Panel on Local Marine Life

The Noyo Center for Marine Science (NCSM) will host a free panel discussion on the health of the Mendocino kelp forest ecosystem during the Fort Bragg Whale Festival. The event will take place on Sunday, March 18, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall in Fort Bragg. The NCSM has launched a "Help the Kelp" campaign in response to the extreme die-off of bull kelp off the northern California coast in recent years.

The panel will include speakers from various collaborators in the project, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, commercial urchin divers, and more. The public is invited to attend and learn about the state of the science on sea stars, abalone, purple urchin and of course bull kelp, and how our current purple urchin imbalance is being addressed. Refreshments and snacks will be available. More information can be found at: <https://noyocenter.org/>

Fort Bragg Opposes Offshore Oil Exploitation

Acting unanimously at its February 12 meeting, the Fort Bragg city council joined many other coastal communities, Mendocino County, and all three Pacific Coast states in opposing oil drilling off our coasts.

While We Were Busy Making Other Plans ...

As a group, we try to focus our energy on a few projects that advance the core values of the League of Women Voters and the needs of our local community (*see story, p. 3*). Yet events, at the local, regional, and national levels, demand a share of our attention.

Health: The MCDH Board has resolved to put a parcel tax measure on the June ballot. The proposed tax of \$144/year would sunset in 12 years. Hospital sources expect to spend as much as \$25K to promote the measure. The Voter Services team

and the Health group will both be working on this.

Behavioral Health: The Florida school shooting and students' response to it have made this the moment to push hard for gun control. (*See Cindy's story on p. 5.*)

Immigration: The Supreme Court's decision not to review the status of the DACA program, now temporarily protected by a lower court ruling, gives us a few more months to promote legislation that protects the Dreamers. (*See story, p. 6*)

LWVMC Calendar

March 6 Tuesday	Board meeting	9:30 a.m.	Fort Bragg Library
March 16 Friday	Meet and Greet event	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Caspar Community Center
April 3 Tuesday	Board meeting	9:30 a.m.	Fort Bragg Library
April 10 Tuesday	Member meeting Program: June Ballot <i>and</i> Civility and Voting	9:30 a.m.	Caspar Community Center
May 1 Tuesday	Board meeting	9:30 a.m.	Fort Bragg Library
May 8 Tuesday	Annual meeting Program: Annual business including elections <i>and</i> Offshore Oil Drilling	9:30 a.m.	Caspar Community Center

Note: Our membership meetings are planned around presentations to educate ourselves and the public about issues and the political process. Non-members and guests of members are very welcome, especially those who bring a fresh viewpoint to the conversation.

Meetings generally start with coffee and chat, and presentations begin promptly at 10 a.m.

We welcome your feedback at voter@mcn.org

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ESPECTACULO DE VARIEDADES



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MARCH 11	11 DE MARZO
AT 4:30	A LAS 4:30

DOORS OPEN AT 4:00 - LAS PUERTAS SE ABREN A LAS 4

ADULTS / ADULTOS \$7
STUDENTS / ESTUDIANTES \$3
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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION & DANCE

SHEROES OF THE WORLD GET THEIR GROOVE ON!



SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH
6:30 - 9:30PM
FORT BRAGG TOWN HALL

OPENING CEREMONY HONORING WOMEN
AROUND THE WORLD FOLLOWED BY A DANCE PARTY
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT [TENAYAMR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:tenayamr@gmail.com)