



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

September, 2017

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

September meeting

Single Payer Healthcare for California

Our annual kickoff meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, at Caspar Community Center. After coffee at 9:30, there will be a presentation by Marian Shostrom and Harry Baker of the Healthy California Campaign. The program will be repeated at 6:00 PM.*

Our League's Health Care action team has taken an interest in "single payer" health insurance, in which a public entity insures everyone. LWVUS supports this concept. Although "single payer" is not being considered in Congress, California is currently considering a scheme to provide it at the state level. The current bill, known as Healthy California, has been endorsed only "in principle" by LWVC but is the subject of much interest at State and local levels of the League.

Marian Shostrom is an adjunct reference librarian at Diablo Valley College, Co-Chair of Health Care for All – Contra Costa County, and Contra Costa County coordinator of the Healthy California Campaign. She is a board member of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley.

Harry Baker serves on the SEIU 1021 Medicare for All Committee and with Health Care for All – Contra Costa County. He is also a Delegate on the Contra Costa Labor Council and a member of the Steering Committee of the Contra Costa Racial Justice Coalition.

The Healthy California Campaign, a 501(c)(3) organization, is comprised of groups representing over 6 million Californians : community, labor, political, immigrant rights and faith groups and individuals are working together to pass SB 562 (Lara & Atkins). The bill provides for one comprehensive plan to cover ALL medically necessary care, including medical, vision, dental, hearing, and reproductive. Patients would have freedom of provider choice, with no networks. Healthy California would pay for all covered services, giving it the power to eliminate waste and contain costs. Premiums, co-pays, and deductibles would be eliminated. Prices for drugs, medical devices, and services would be negotiated. For additional information see the Healthy California Campaign website: <http://www.healthycaliforniaact.org/home/>

As of August 23, 2017, the bill had passed the California Senate in June and been sent to the Assembly Rules Committee. Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon has blocked SB 562 from moving forward. The Speaker alone has the power to move the bill so that it can be worked on by the Assembly Health and then Appropriations Committees. Instead, he is forming a select committee to study the issue.

*** Invite a friend to an evening presentation. See the calendar on p. 9 for additional evening meetings.**



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

Let's Build Our League to Accomplish More

by Cindy Plank

Here we are again, ready to start another year full of education and advocacy. Are you excited? We sure are!

Elsewhere in this issue you will find details about the four outstanding programs planned for this fall, September through November. Please plan to attend, and consider personally inviting at least one other person to join you. This is a way that each of us can help to make our local League grow, and to accomplish more for our wonderful community. We are experimenting with holding some meetings in the evening, to include those with work or school obligations. Why not invite a worker or student?



Based on conversations with folks who attended our Annual Meeting in May, we've come up with a few other ideas for ways that we members can help to increase the clout of our League:

- "Gift" a membership to a friend or family member.
- Donate toward an essay contest for High School students, the prize(s) of which would be determined by the donations received, and help us come up with a dynamic topic, perhaps an issue that seems to evade solution by our elected representatives – young minds are amazing.
- Donate to our Education Fund, which is used for providing programs, information about ballot measures, and other voter services.

As you renew your membership, consider supporting one of the above ideas, or a different one, and designate your preference. And now that League membership is available to individuals (citizen or non-citizen) 16 years of age or older, here are a couple of other ideas - if these sound interesting to you, just contact a Board member:

- Sponsor a student membership, or a portion of one, and help us get young people inspired about & involved in the important work of the League.
- Sponsor a regular membership, or a portion of one, for a member of the community who might like to "try out" the League.

Thank you to each and every League member – you are what keeps this organization vibrant!

We will see you on September 26 at our Kick Off meeting.

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.



Attendees Jane Person, President Nancy Kleiber, President Cindy Plank, and Carol Czadek at the Convention. LWVMC won an award for partnering to assist prospective new citizens. Read more about the State convention in Carol's notes on page 7.

Mendocino County League's 2017 Annual Meeting

by Jary Stavely

The League's Annual Meeting was held at Caspar Community Center on May 9, 2017. The proposed budget (as per the April 2017 *Voter*) was approved, with the addition of \$1000 to the program line. This change, proposed from the floor, was made in order to facilitate action by the five working groups the League has set up for the 2017–2018 year: Immigration, Environment, Health Care, Mental Health and Homelessness, and Making Democracy Work. In a new wrinkle for the Annual Meeting, a leader from each group gave a report about their current and future activities. The membership also elected Officers and Directors for the 2017–2018 fiscal year. JoAn Blackstone stepped down from the Board, and Don Kirkpatrick was elected to take her place. At the subsequent Board Meeting, held on June 27th, the Directors thanked JoAn for her special contributions as a Director and presented her with a card of appreciation and a gift certificate for a meal at the Albion River Inn.



At the conclusion of the business meeting, Supervisor Dan Gjerde and Redwood Community Services Director Camille Schraeder presented extensive information about the delivery of mental health services in the county. Both speakers provided reasons for optimism in the coming year. Mr. Gjerde suggested that the legislature's recently passed transportation subsidy would provide monies to assist the county's mental health budget, while Ms. Schraeder's wide-ranging overview of her organization's work, and its desire to expand the delivery of services on the coast gave the impression that improvements are on the way.

Members wound up their get-together with a traditional pot luck lunch with soup provided by the Westport Hotel.

Photos of JoAn and Don by Becky Bowen

MCDH Board Votes to Keep Obstetric Services

by Jary Stavely

The Mendocino Coast District Hospital Board held a public meeting at Town Hall in Fort Bragg on June 22 to consider the issue of continuing obstetrics services on the coast. The meeting began with Finance Committee Chair John Allison summarizing the findings of the Ad Hoc Committee's study of the issue. He enumerated 21 points established by the committee's majority which led it to recommend dropping the services. He said the closure was recommended reluctantly in order to ensure the survival of the hospital as a functioning entity. To view the complete report (which had been a subject of some controversy within the committee), see:

<http://www.mcdh.org/ob-ad-hoc-committee-report/>.

The public comment period began with committee member Lucresha Renteria, who reported a number of steps which the Coast Clinics (of which she is the director) has taken to enable the continuation of birth services on the coast, in partnership with the hospital and the Ukiah Valley Medical Center, including salary for a resident ob/gyn doctor. Fifteen speakers followed, all but one giving reasons for the hospital to persevere in keeping the services available.

After the public comment period, and the board members giving their own views, the Board voted 5-0 to maintain the provision of services for three years, provided that they are "financially viable." Board members emphasized that community support, especially for upcoming parcel taxes, would be essential for the plan to succeed, and many in the audience agreed to provide it.

A more detailed report by Kelci Parks is at <http://www.advocate-news.com/general-news/20170629/town-shows-up-for-ob-dept>.

Hospital Parcel Tax Supporters Form Committee

by Sharon Gilligan

Community members have formed a committee to work with the Mendocino Coast District Hospital to inform the public about the need for a parcel tax to keep the hospital open. They have a number of questions for the Board about how the parcel tax

would be used, who paid for the last initiative (which lost), and what happens to the District if the hospital does close. Knowing that there are some negative perceptions about the hospital, they plan to begin the process with a listening tour to find out what issues need to be addressed. The goal is to solve the problems raised, but we must save the hospital to do so. If the hospital fails, we lose all the fine services it provides. The next meeting is planned for September 7 at 7:00 PM at Mendocino Coast Clinics Conference Room. Anyone interested in joining this effort is invited to email me at: sharongilligan@comcast.net.

Toxics at the Mill Site

by Jary Stavely

In May, consultants hired by Georgia-Pacific submitted a Feasibility Study to the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) regarding the cleanup of the millpond at the center of the old mill property in Fort Bragg. On July 25, the DTSC held an open house at Town Hall regarding the toxins on the site and the content of the study. Since that meeting, Fort Bragg City Council member John Cimolino has used the Mendocino Announce listserve to urge residents to make public comments against the report to DTSC, which is required by law to consider community input in making its response.

According to a letter to the DTSC's Tom Lanphar from coastal resident and environmentalist David Jensen, the options for recycling, reducing, or eliminating the hazards involved, "have been rejected in favor of leaving those hazards in place, and controlling human and environmental exposure through institutional controls (fencing) and deed restrictions that would prohibit future use of those areas for reasonable but currently unanticipated uses." The approach proposed by G-P, a very economical one for them, would involve installing concrete caps, fencing, and warning signs. Mr. Cimolino and the NHUDG have pointed out how damaging the recommendations would be to tourism (DANGER signs in the middle of the city's new coastal trail) and to the effort to "daylight" Alder and Maple Creeks in their course through the property to the ocean.

The DTSC is scheduled to give a formal response to the feasibility study at the end of August.

Housing Action Group Created

by Jary Stavelly

A Coastal Housing Action Team has been formed under the auspices of Healthy Mendocino (<http://www.healthymendocino.org/>). It will usually meet on the second Thursday of the month.

More than 20 local citizens attended its August meeting, including *Voter* editors Jary Stavelly and Dorine Real.

The group, which was formed to find ways to promote more and better housing options on the coast and to deal with the problem of homelessness, represented a wide range of interests. Participants in the meeting included officials from the city of Fort Bragg; people from Hospitality House, NHUDG, and Healthy Mendocino; realtors; a homeless person; several advocates for the homeless; people who work with churches which provide free lunches; and other interested citizens. Elizabeth Swenson served as coordinator/moderator of the meeting.

Attendees heard a presentation by Fort Bragg City Planner Marie Jones (also a member of the team), who reviewed what the city has done to promote "building in" second homes on city lots, and to assist developers who plan to provide affordable housing. She reviewed the multi-unit project which has been built on Cypress St. by Danco, a construction company based in Arcata, and also their proposed new project nearby on South St..

Ms. Jones and others also discussed recent actions taken by the Fort Bragg City Council and the County Board of Supervisors regarding vacation rentals. Both governments have taken steps to try to collect unpaid bed taxes and fees and to restrict official permission for short term rentals, in an effort to expand the supply of low- and middle-income rentals.

As a means of moving forward, committee members suggested forming three subcommittees: Model Programs, Policy, and Identifying Needs. The Model Programs group will gather information on successful tiny house and other programs in other areas. The Policy group will work on promoting housing action outside the city limits of Fort Bragg. The Identifying Needs group will gather demographics and other information about

who the people are who need housing in our region.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14 at 2:00 PM at Town Hall in Fort Bragg. The public is invited to attend and actively participate.

News Concerning Immigration

The League's partner groups continue to be active in support of local immigrants.

The Mendocino Jewish Community Justice Group is continuing its effort to enable people in our community to become U.S. citizens. It held a taco dinner at Queenie's Roadhouse in Elk on August 22 to raise money for its Scholarship Fund. The fund will help people from the citizenship class offered by the Coastal Adult School in Fort Bragg to pay the fees needed to complete the citizenship process. Their initial goal is to raise funds for 10 scholarships, a total of \$7,250, in 2017. About 20 students are expected to complete the Citizenship Class this year, so they hope to continue their fundraising effort through the 2018 November election. Checks may be made out to MCJC and earmarked Citizenship Fund in the memo. Send them to MCJC Justice Group c/o Nancy Harris, P.O. Box 291, Little River, CA 95456.

The Latino Coalition (LatCo) is planning a series of free movie nights at Safe Passage. The first two will be on Saturday, September 9 at 7:00 PM (*Mulan*), and Saturday, September 23, also at 7:00 (*The Land Before Time*). Future movies will be announced.

LatCo is also organizing a Fiesta of Latin Culture in Bainbridge Park that will be open to all on Sunday, September 24 from 2:00 to 6:00.

The LatCo meeting in November will be a chance for parents to discuss the prevention of underage drug and alcohol use, as well as the impact of gangs on our youth.

Finally, California Human Development has announced the opening of a new office for immigration and citizenship services on the campus of Mendocino College in Ukiah. Their flyer promises free assistance in exploring "options, eligibility for citizenship, DACA renewals, obtaining green cards, UVisa, and more."

Remembering, Smiling, and Thanking Louis A. Hough

by Becky Bowen

Louis Arthur Hough died January 26, 2017, in Walnut Creek.

According to his obituary in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (which I am sure he wrote), he has “set sail for a distant realm.” The League has lost a treasured friend.

Louie was a writer, scholar, historian, award-winning documentary film producer and teacher. He was born in Oakland in 1931. After graduation from Stanford University, he worked in the Bay Area editing and producing documentary films. He received many honors for his work, including “The Golden Eagle,” awarded by the United States Council on International Non-theatrical Events.



Louis with Andarin Arvola Picture by Becky Bowen

Louie had a lifelong interest in ships, steam engines, railroad locomotives, and model railroads. He began to write maritime histories in 1975, including published pieces about ships designed by his grandfather, Edward S. Hough. He became an authority on steamships and the West Coast lumber trade and won the Karl Kortum Endowment award for Maritime History of the West Coast. Some of his research was conducted in the archives of the Kelley House Museum after Louie and his wife, Susan Eveleth, moved to the Mendocino Coast. His

most recent book, “A Fleet to be Forgotten—the Wooden Freighters of World War One,” was published in 2009 by the San Francisco Maritime History Press.

Because he never blew his own horn, many members may not know that he was an active supporter and member of our League. Susan Eveleth served as president of the League from 2001 to 2004 and became the editor of the *Voter*. Louie was the newsletter proofreader. After Susan passed the *Voter* torch to me, I had the pleasure of working with Louie. He was proofreader extraordinaire, with an uncanny ability to look at a page and instantly see grammatical and graphic composition errors. Every issue of the *Voter* I had the privilege to publish was turned out with Louie’s counsel, advice, and correction—and his help took the quality of our newsletter to a new level. He continued to help by e-mail and telephone after he and Susan moved a few years ago to Walnut Creek.

Louie is survived by his wife, Susan; son Christopher Cameron Hough, of Utah; daughter Nicole Hough Wakeman, of California; granddaughter Barbara Viola Hough, of Massachusetts; grandson Cameron Orion Hough, of Utah; and former wives Barbara Lewis and Betsy Hough.

Because we both admired the work of the League and because we both loved the written word, Louie and I had long and downright convoluted editing and proofreading sessions during almost a decade of work together on the *Voter*. During that time, we rhapsodized about Strunk and White’s “Elements of Style, the Associated Press Stylebook, and his favorite book, the dictionary. We discussed current events, California literature, sports, Mendocino County politics, and birds—and in the process became dear friends. He never wanted credit for his huge contribution to the *Voter* and insisted that he was merely our amanuensis. It was one of his favorite words and he managed to work it into every conversation, much to my irritation and his amusement. When you look it up, please think about Louie and drink a toast to him. I think that would make him smile.

LWVC Convention 2017

by Carol Czadek

I was so glad to have the opportunity to attend the LWVC convention this year. Because it was held in Sacramento during the last days of the Legislative session, it focused, for me, on the League's mission of advocacy.

Cindy and I participated in Lobby Day by meeting with Assemblyman Woods' staff to urge that he vote for AB 668 which would place a bond measure on the June 2018 ballot to appropriate \$450 million for counties to purchase new voting systems, electronic poll books, ballot-on-demand systems, vote-by-mail drop boxes, and accessible vote-by-mail systems; AB 378 to extend Cap and Trade to 2030 with many improvements; and SCA 3, to put a bond measure on the ballot to change the voting threshold for library bonds to 55% rather than the existing 66.7%.

We met with Senator McGuire's staff to urge passage of SB 54, which would prevent state and local law enforcement agencies from engaging in immigration enforcement and limit them to cooperating in the deportation of violent and serious criminals. A high point of our afternoon was observing the Senators deliver their pro or con statements on the Senate floor for SB 562, which would guarantee that every resident of California receive comprehensive healthcare services in a manner that is financially sustainable. (It's like Medicare for All.)

All of these bills passed and will be taken up by either the House or Senate committees when the Legislative session resumes.

I chose to attend some very interesting and informative workshops and caucuses on Friday and Saturday. Two of them -- **Climate Change: Taking it Local** and **Fix Prop. 13** -- were presented by members of the LWV Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville. The women leading the discussions indicated that they would be interested in coming to a meeting or forum to share their information with our community. More information about these important topics can be found on their website, www.lwvbae.org and also www.PriceonCarbon.org and www.MakeItFairCA.com.

LWVC Program Asks a Question

The State League program adopted at the convention identifies three modes of acting on each issue: advocate, educate, and empower.

The document defines "empowering community leadership" with a question:

"How do we come together to make the best decisions for all of us?"

As we continue to work on improving electoral and legislative processes, it's useful and inspiring to keep this broader perspective in mind.

-- Dorine Real

At another caucus, **Single Payer in California and the Campaign for SB 562**, the need for and provisions of the Healthy California Act were explained. More info at www.HealthyCA.org.

Of the guest speakers we listened to each day, the most memorable was Michael Tubbs, the city of Stockton's first black mayor, and at 26 the youngest person to hold the office of mayor in cities in the US with a population over 100,000. Stockton is coming out of bankruptcy, has high crime and poverty, and more than 1/3 of its population is under the age of 21. He was elected with more than 70% of the vote, so I hope that he will have the support necessary to succeed. His message to us was that it is not enough to vote. "Vote, and..." he kept repeating. Run for school board, planning commission, mentor young people, be an active participant in your community. He was speaking to an audience of about 200, 90% of whom were AARP eligible and white. The following day most of the black women present took the microphone to say that they felt patronized in their conversations with many of us. Others pointed out that if we are serious about expanding our membership, we need to hold meetings at times and places that are convenient, preferably with childcare available.

This was the first LWV convention that I have attended. There was not much on the agenda to vote on, so I didn't experience the processes that the League usually does. All in all, I enjoyed myself and felt that being at the convention was worthwhile. In the future, I hope other members will take advantage of the opportunity to attend.

Coast Campus Opens as College of Mendocino

On August 9th, Mendocino College President Arturo Reyes presided at a Grand Opening of its newly acquired Coast Center on Del Mar Drive in Fort Bragg. Although the Ukiah-based community college has been offering classes on the coast for the past two years under a Memorandum of Understanding with the College of the Redwoods, the transfer of the campus property and the local school districts' tax base was not completed until this summer.

Dr. Reyes thanked a number of people for making the event possible, beginning with former Mendocino resident Debbie White, now an instructor at the Ukiah campus, who encouraged him and his administration to trust in the coastal facility and community. He presented League member and College of the Redwoods trustee Barbara Rice a bouquet of flowers for her part in the transition, and also gave special recognition to former Fort Bragg mayor (and current city council member) Dave Turner for being especially welcoming to his team. League member Heather

Gurewitz presented a plaque from Representative Jared Huffman to former Mendocino College Board Chair Joel Clark, for his part in the process. Dr. Reyes also gave special praise to the new college maintenance crew for their work in making the facility ready for the open house and the new academic year.



President Reyes presents a bouquet to Barbara Rice



MCC Board Chair Dave Geck (Kelseyville), President Reyes, Jason Pinoli, and Calpella Trustee Marie Myers pose with the ceremonial scissors.

Photos by Becky Bowen

After a ceremonial ribbon cutting, the library room was opened for a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception for the crowd who attended.

Although she continues to sit as a trustee on the College of the Redwoods Board, Ms. Rice has no official role on the Mendocino College Board. For the time being, residents in the Fort Bragg and Leggett districts will be represented by Willits trustee Paul Ubelhart, while those living in the Mendocino Unified area will be represented by Jason Pinoli of Boonville/Hopland. Redistricting for the entire Mendocino College trustee area (which includes Lakeport and Kelseyville) will take place after the 2020 census.

League of Women Voters of Mendocino County Meeting/Program Schedule 2017-2018

Membership Meetings

At Caspar Community Center

Morning meetings: 9:30 coffee and conversation, 10:00 – 11:30 AM program

Evening meetings: 6:30 – 8:00 PM (except Meet and Greet)

Meeting dates are Tuesdays except Meet and Greet

The public is welcome at all our meetings.

2017

September 26 morning AND evening

Topic: Health Care and “Healthy California”

Speaker: Harry Baker

Host: Sharon Gilligan

Refreshments: Babs Levine

October 10 evening

Topic: Climate Change

Speaker: Randy McDonald

Host: Carol Czadek

Refreshments:

October 24 evening

Topic: Climate Change

Speaker: Panel

Host: Carol Czadek

Refreshments:

November 14 evening

Topic: Immigration

Speaker: *TBD*

Host: Jane Person

Refreshments:

December: no meeting

2018

January 9 morning

Topic: National and Local Program Planning

Speaker: member participation

Host: Nancy Kleiber & Cindy Plank

Refreshments: Pat Dunbar

February 13 morning AND evening

Topic: Voter Suppression/Voter Fraud

Speaker: *TBD*

Host: Pat Dunbar

Refreshments: Jane Person & Don Kirkpatrick

March 16 Friday 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials

Host: Jary Stavely

Refreshments: Patricia Marien and Board

April 10 morning AND evening

Topics: June 2018 Ballot Information / Civility

Speaker: *TBD*

Hosts: Carol Czadek & Dorine Real

Refreshments: Roberta Brockschmidt

May 8 morning

Annual Meeting / Oil Drilling Off Our Coast

Speaker: Rachel Binah

Host: Nancy Kleiber, Cindy Plank (business)

Carol Czadek (program)

Refreshments: Carol Czadek

Board Meetings

At Ft. Bragg Library Community Room, 9:30 AM

Meeting dates are Tuesdays.

All members are welcome to attend

September 12, 2017

October 3, 2017

November 7, 2017

January 2, 2018

February 6, 2018

March 3, 2018

April 3, 2018

May 1, 2018

June 12, 2018