



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

September 2010

Jane Person, President

Charlene McAllister, Editor

LOCAL LEAGUE SELECTS STATE PROPOSITIONS TO KICK OFF NEW YEAR OF MEETINGS, ACTION

On September 21, Mendocino LWV members start a new year with pro and con discussions of nine state propositions and County Measure C on the November 2 General Election ballot.

The September 21 meeting will be at 10 a.m. at the Harbor Lite Lodge, Fort Bragg. Please join us for refreshments at 9:30 a.m.

Discussions will continue at the year's second meeting October 12 which will mark the league's first meeting at Fort Bragg's C.V. Starr Center (see p. 3).

LWVC Positions On Ballot Measures

- ***Opposes Proposition 20***—Congressional District Redistricting
- ***Opposes Proposition 23***—Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards
- ***Supports Proposition 24***—Tax Fairness Act
- ***Supports Proposition 25***—Simple Majority Budget Vote
- ***Opposes Proposition 26***—Polluter Protection Act
- ***Opposes Proposition 27***—Abolishes State Redistricting Commission
- ***Neutral on Proposition 21***—\$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs
- ***Neutral on Proposition 22***—Prohibits state government from taking local funds
- ***No applicable League position on Proposition 19***—Legalizes and regulates marijuana

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CONVENTION WITH A CAPITAL "C" - ATLANTA REPORT BY JOAN BLACKSTONE

One of the first things I learned when attending the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) Convention last June was the article "the" isn't used with the word. It's "Convention"—an

implicit way to say there is no other quite like it.

Whether it was the outside temperature and humidity for which "Hotlanta" is famous or my fascination with all that happened in-

side, I chose to stay in for the entire time. Not that there weren't a lot of interesting "Dine Around" and other outside activities available, thanks to our gracious host League. If you've ever attended

a League convention, you know that it takes a LOT of energy to really participate in workshops and caucuses that start at 7:30 a.m. and, after dinner, into the late evening.

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2010-2011

Officers and Board of Directors

President 964-6351	Jane Person janeperson@hotmail.com
Vice President 964-2781	Dorine Real dorine@mcn.org
Vice President 964-4942	Patricia Marien paprika@mcn.org
Secretary 962-1602	Becky Bowen casparbeck@comcast.net
Treasurer 964-2781	Lee Tepper eel@mcn.org
Kitty Brown	Director
JoAn Blackstone 937-2481	Voter Service joanblackstone@comcast.net
Pat Dunbar 937-3409	Director pdunbar@mcn.org
Babs Levine 937-0629	Director babs@wildblue.net
Barbara Matheson 937-5164	Action ken@mcn.org

Off Board Chairpersons

Charlene McAllister 937-4463	VOTER editor charmace@mcn.org
Doris Hammer	Budget Committee
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VOTER Staff—Barbara Auerbach, B. Bowen, Susan Eveleth, Louis Hough, Susan Mitchell, Jane Person

There is one Director position open—please contact Jane Person if you would like to serve on our LWV Board of Directors.

President's Message—In a review of a book called *Delusions of Gender* (NY Times, Aug 24,) Katharine Bouton notes that in 1915 the neurologist Dr. Charles Dana wrote in the NY Times “that because a woman’s upper spinal cord is smaller than a man’s it affects women’s ‘efficiency’ in the evaluation of ‘political initiative or of judicial authority in a community’s organization’—and thus compromises their ability to vote.”



Well, no wonder it took 72 years for women to win the vote with respected scientists espousing views like these. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, and next year California celebrates the 100th anniversary of the right to vote in this state. Obviously in the years since Dana pointed this “fact” out to the world, women’s spinal cords have grown a whole lot larger: women have been voting intelligently and often ever since 1920.

And this brings us to the Mendocino LWV’s upcoming year. Voter Services Chair JoAn Blackstone plans two Candidates Forums and two Pro Con meetings to assist voters in evaluating candidates and ballot issues. Also on the ballot is County Measure C, which, at this writing, Action Chair Barbara Matheson is researching for possible action by the Mendocino League Board. The measure proposes to increase sales tax by ½ percent.

The State LWV’s Easy Voter Guide will be out in early September, and we will deliver it all over the county as soon as possible. Look for it in the Ft. Bragg and Mendocino Community Libraries or on line at www.easyvoter.org. Smart Voter (www.smartvoter.org) serves people who are at home with the internet, committed to voting and looking for unbiased information. For November candidates for federal and statewide contests are being asked standard questions by the Smart Voter project.

“Pros & Cons” and “In Depth” are aimed at voters who want to be well informed, and you can access these at www.CAvotes.org. The State League used to print these, but no longer does so owing to budget constraints. For those who wish to see the texts of the propositions plus arguments for and against before this information is mailed, visit the Secretary of State’s home page at www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov.

One of the most important factors in deciding how to vote is to look at who put the measure on the ballot and who is supporting it. Check out the money behind the measure. For example, NPR reports that funding for proposition 23 which suspends AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, comes from major oil companies: Valero Energy of San Antonio (\$500K), Tesoro Corporation also of San Antonio (\$200K), and Occidental Petroleum of Los Angeles (\$300K). The EPA has named Valero and Tesoro as major polluters in the state. We hope to bring out more such information at the Pro/Con meetings in September and October.

Jane Person

2010 Calendar-Please Note New Locations

- **Tuesday, September 21, 2010**— State Propositions Pros and Cons
10 a.m. Harbor Lite Lodge, 120 North Harbor Drive, Fort Bragg
(Please join us for coffee and homemade refreshments at 9:30 a.m.)
- **Tuesday, October 12, 2010**—State Propositions Pros and Cons, Part 2
10 a.m. C.V. Starr Community Center, 300 S. Lincoln St., Fort Bragg
(9:30 a.m. coffee)
- **Tuesday, October 19, 2010**—Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Fort Bragg Library meeting room
- **Tuesday, November 9, 2010**—Redistricting
10 a.m. C.V. Starr Community Center, 300 S. Lincoln St., Fort Bragg
(9:30 a.m. coffee)
- **December—No General Meeting— Happy Holidays**
- **Tuesday, December 14, 2010**—Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 am.
Fort Bragg Library meeting room

2011—Please Save These Dates

Tuesday, January 11, 2011—The Grand Jury

Tuesday, February 8, 2011—LWV California Positions

Friday, March 18, 2011—Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials Event

Tuesday, April 12, 2011—How to Be a Participant in Local Government

Tuesday, May 10, 2011—Annual Meeting, Election of Board of Directors

All General Meetings Open to the Public. All Board Meetings Open to Members

LEAGUE MEMBERS SELECT NEW MEETING SITE

By Patricia Marien

In June, President Person asked for three members to do research on all the possible meeting places that could serve the League's needs for the coming year. After two months, and numerous emails and phone calls to the various possibilities (and to each other) Charlene

McAllister, Becky Bowen and Patricia Marien (yours truly) were delighted to find that the C.V. Starr Community Center could offer us all we asked for, including a podium, PowerPoint capability, kitchen access, plus another big plus, table setup ahead of time by Starr staff. All within our budget.

We were thrilled. The committee was also happy that we can support our wonderful new community resource. We found working on this project to be both fun and interesting. We also want to thank Jim, Cindy, and their staff at the Starr Center for the gracious replies to our many queries.



Beginning in October, our League general meetings will be held in the C.V. Starr Community Meeting Room—not in the Sigrid & Harry Spath Aquatic Facility. But come join us at the complex and jump right in. The water's fine.

U.S., STATE CANDIDATES QUALIFY FOR NOVEMBER BALLOT

Mendocino County voters will receive a ballot for the November 2 General Election that includes candidates for U.S. Senate and Congress, State Senate, State Assembly and Governor.

Other California offices up for election are Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, District 1 of the State Board of Equali-

zation, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner and State Superintendent of Public Instruction. For a list of candidates, click on:

www.smartvoter.org

or

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/2010-elections/>

Important Dates*

September 6-October 19—Write-in Declaration of Candidacy

October 4—Counties begin mailing vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots

October 18—Last Day to Register

October 26—Last Day to request VBM ballot by mail

November 2—Election Day 7A-8P

*Sources: Secretary of State www.sos.ca.gov/elections
County Recorder/Clerk www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE RELEASES NOVEMBER CANDIDATE LIST

Mendocino County voters will elect a District Attorney November 2 as well as Supervisors of County Districts 3 and 5.

Three members (incumbents Meg Courtney, Dan Gjerde and Dave Turner) of the Fort Bragg City Council and two members of the Point Arena City Council (incumbent Lauren Sinnott and retired school administrator Terry Hughey) have been appointed by their respective City Councils because there was no opposition.

Four candidates will run for three seats on the Ukiah City Council.

In Willits, incumbent City Councilmember Greg Kanne did not file and three candidates will run for two full-term seats.

Updates in Special District Elections include:

Coast Life Support District (includes areas in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties)—Three full-term seats were up for election. David Rice, Gualala, will be the ap-

pointed incumbent. Cynthia Chilton Hauck and Thomas Toedter (both of Sonoma County) are the only remaining declared candidates from Sonoma County, so they will be appointed by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

Mendocino Coast Health Care District—Incumbent Michael Dell'Ara did not file for re-election. Because there were only three people who filed to run for three full-term seats, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will appoint incumbents Dr. John A. Kermen, Patricia Jauregui-Darland and new member Dr. Benjamin Graham.

Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District—Seven candidates (including one incumbent) will run for three full-term seats.

A complete list of Mendocino County candidates is at www.co.mendocino.ca.us/acr/ (click on Candidate Information, then Complete List of Mendocino County Candidates).

California November Ballot Measures—Please join a pro/con discussion of ballot measures at our September 21 and October 12 League meetings and look for announcements about our upcoming candidate forums. The public is always invited.

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.

*JoAn Blackstone's Notes from the LWVUS Convention in Atlanta, GA—June 2010**continued from Page 1*

And there were some difficult choices. Sometimes I wished I could have attended two or more at once. The ones I attended included caucuses on Criminal Justice: Sentencing Reform, National Popular Vote Concurrence, Spreading the Health Care Message, The Fair Elections Now Act, Privatization, the Federal Role in Public Education, and workshops on Redistricting and the Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary.

To say that some of the speakers were inspiring would be an understatement. The keynote speaker was the Honorable John Lewis of Georgia, who has been called “the conscience of the Congress” by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The panel presentation by former LWVUS presidents was fascinating—and a fine way to show how far we’ve come as a nation, and as a League.

With 551 voting delegates registered at the time of the opening Plenary and 602 the following Monday, the actions taken show that this year’s Convention was truly progressive. Two new studies were approved: Privatization: The policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sec-

tion (despite its being a non-recommended item), and an LWVUS Board recommended study of the Federal Role in Public Education. A motion to amend and update the existing Arms Control position was approved.

Other approved motions extended or clarified existing League positions. Concurrence with the LWVMD and LWVME position on Marriage Equality was added to the Equality of Opportunity position. It states: “The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.”

Language was added to the League’s existing position to seek abolition of the Electoral College. The National Popular Vote Compact is an agreement among partici-

pating states which becomes effective when states controlling enough electoral votes to elect the President have joined. At that time, those participating states have pledged to direct all their electoral votes for the presidential candidate who wins the majority of the popular vote in the entire nation.

The individual states determine how their electoral votes are cast, with most states currently using a “winner take all” method with respect to votes cast in their individual states. An agreement among the states would make a Constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College unnecessary, according to the proponents. The added language that was approved is, “We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.”

Motions to support lifting travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba, for the LWVUS board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all, to call upon the U.S. Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster, and for the Board to support and lobby for signifi-

cant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources, and for additional legislation to regulate drilling and mining “in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment” were all approved.

The Monterey Peninsula, CA League sponsored a motion of the LWVUS to add the principal of Transparency to the SARA Resolution concerning voting procedures adopted by the LWVUS in 2004 and amended in 2006, so the resolution now includes the following principals: Security; Accuracy; Recountability; Accessibility; and Transparency.

These are some of the highlights in terms of actions taken. The democratic process through which delegates were able to fully participate, and the gracious style of our now former LWVUS President, Mary G. Wilson, made it possible for a lot of business to be done in a way that made us truly appreciate each other.

Thank you so very much for sending me to the Convention.

JoAn Blackstone is Voter Service chair of LWVMC.



League members Jary Stavely, Betty Stavely and Patricia Marien



County Supervisor Kendall Smith (above)
and Emcee Toni Orans (below)

**90 Years
Of
Women's Suffrage
Celebrated
August 22, 2010
Kelley House
Lawn,
Mendocino
National Women's
Political Caucus
And
LWVMC**



LWV President Person



Val Muchowski, National Women's
Political Caucus and LWV member



Mendocino Women's Chorus

Getting the Vote 90 Years Ago Wasn't Easy, Wasn't Unanimous

By *Barbara Auerbach*

I always look forward to my shift at voting time at the Board of Elections in Mendocino. I usually vote before I begin my shift, and then I proceed to do my appointed task without once considering that I would not be voting if it weren't for the 19th Amendment.

I feel good about people voting because it is their right. I am particularly partial to angry, indignant women who come into the polls with their mail-in ballot in hand demanding that they vote at the polls to insure the fact that their ballot gets counted. The 19th Amendment happened because women were angry and indignant about not having their vote count. We are now celebrating the 90th anniversary since women won the right to vote. It took almost 100 years to get the amendment passed which means that many of the proponents of a woman's right to vote never saw their efforts come to fruition.

On the other hand, there were many women—not just men, but women—who did not believe that they should have the right, or needed to have the right to vote. In fact there was a major anti-suffrage petition just before the First World War that collected nearly half a million female signatures. Among those anti-suffragists was Helen Kendrick Johnson who wrote voluminously on suffragists vs. anti-suffragists. She believed that there was common ground among suffragists and anti-suffragists. They both agreed that women were gentler, more nurturing and more caring than men; however, anti-suffragists believed that women needed to be protected by the strength and power of men.

One of Helen Kendrick Johnson's arguments stated: "...that woman, like man, can advance only as the race advances; and that here lies the dividing line. How absolute is that dividing line between woman's progress and woman suffrage, we may realize when we consider what the result would be if we could know to-morrow, beyond a peradventure, that woman never would vote in the United States. Not one of her charities, great or

would close its doors. Not a profession would withhold its diploma from her; not a trade its recompense. Not a single just law would be repealed, or a bad one framed, as a consequence. Not a good book would be forfeited. Not a family would be less secure of domestic happiness. Not a single hope would die which points to a time when our cities will all be like those of the prophet's vision, 'first pure and then peaceable.' "

She also believed that: "Civilization has advanced so far that, instead of blows there are arguments in court, instead of bullets there are ballots at the polls; but the blows and the bullets must always be ready, in case the arguments and the ballots are unheeded. The physical strength that was given to man to use, like every other gift, for the good of the race, he is so using when he holds it as a *dernier ressort* for law and order."

Because roots of the suffrage movement were founded in Britain's socialism and Frances's woman's aristocratic love of holding patronage, American anti-suffragists called suffragist socialists and communists. Anti-suffragists were not as well organized or as numerous as the suffragists. However, they disseminated pamphlets, held debates, and wrote articles in the newspapers. They even lobbied against the suffragists.

Ironically for all the talk by the anti-suffragists about women needing to be protected by the strength and power of men, it was World War I that turned the tide and helped win the votes to have the 19th Amendment passed.

Women were very much needed during the war to work in factories and take more active roles to support the war. It was Carrie Chapman Catt, the head of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, who took many opportunities to remind President Woodrow Wilson about the important roles that women played during the war. Wilson had been opposed to the suffragist movement before the war. However their great efforts to support the war caused Wilson to respond in a speech on September 18, 1918, saying that, "We have made partners of the women in this war. Shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of right?"

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed on August 26, 1920.

Reference: Helen Kendrick Johnson, *Woman and the Republic*, Published by the *Barbara Auerbach*, a regular contributor to the *VOTER*, is a children's rights attorney.

A Letter from Jary Stavely, Our League Membership Chair

September 1, 2010

Dear Member,

Now is the time to renew your membership. I'm sending this reminder so that we can achieve our goal of 100 per cent membership renewal. Every member, active or not, is important to the League. You and the League have a lot in common: Concerns about critical issues, involvement in our community and a desire to make a difference.

As you know, our dues support the national, state and local League. Our dues are now \$55.00 per individual and \$80.00 per household. For a \$55.00 membership, \$22.00 goes to California State League and \$29.20 goes to the National League. This leaves \$3.80 for our local League, per member. In addition to our regular and household memberships, we are pleased to include two additional levels of membership for you to consider when you make your renewal. Each membership is named after a woman of the past who chose to make a difference.

Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Amelia Bloomer was the first woman to own, operate and edit a newspaper, *The Lily*, which promoted women's rights issues.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association and served as the first president.

Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters. "Winning the vote is only an opening wedge—learning to use it is a bigger task."

Thank you for remaining a member of a committed group of women and men who are working to make a difference in the future of our country.

Sincerely,

Jary Stavely

Membership Chair

Membership Renewal:

Please consider joining at one of these levels:

Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership \$55 _____

Amelia Bloomer Two-member Household Membership \$80 _____

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership \$100_____

Carrie Chapman Catt Membership \$250 or more _____

Donation _____

Please send me more information:

Name/Names: _____ Address _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to: **League of Women Voters of Mendocino County**

And mail to: **LWVMC**

P.O. Box 1128

Fort Bragg, CA 95437