



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

October, 2017

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavelly and Lee Tepper, Editors

Two October Meetings will Address Climate Change

by Carol Czadek

The League's Environmental Action Committee has arranged a special program entitled "Climate Change and What We Can Do about It," to be held at the Caspar Community Center this Tuesday, October 10, at 6:30 PM. Randal MacDonald of the Citizens' Climate Lobby will discuss the latest scientific findings about climate change and its impacts on our region. He will also review leading proposals for solving the climate change problem, including government regulation, Cap and Trade programs and the Carbon Fee and Dividend plan. Attendees will learn about ways each of us can help address this vital issue of public concern.

The Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. Its website states that its "consistently respectful, non-partisan approach to climate education is designed to create a broad, sustainable foundation for climate action across all geographic regions and political inclinations. By building upon shared values rather than partisan divides, and empowering supporters to work in keeping with the concerns of their local communities, it works towards the adoption of fair, effective, and sustainable climate change solutions."

MacDonald, a Comptche resident, is a member of the Citizens' Climate Lobby Santa Rosa Chapter

Steering Committee, and a volunteer firefighter. Doors will open at 6:00, and the presentation will begin at 6:30. League members are encouraged to bring friends for this timely presentation.

Our October meetings ...

Climate Change Facts and Proposals October 10

Sea Level Rise October 24

Both meetings are on Tuesday evenings at the Caspar Community Center. Presentations start at 6:30.

Later in the month the League will host a second Environmental Action Committee program which specifically addresses impending **sea level rise** on our coast. It will be held at the Caspar Community Center on **Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30.**

Diz Swift, the LWVC Climate Change Program Director and also the leader of the Steering Team for Price on Carbon for the LWVUS, will describe the causes and predicted extent of future sea level rise on the California coast. The program will include slides showing the impacts of the rise during the rest of the 21st century. While



Diz Swift

recognizing the urgency of taking action to slow and reverse climate change, she will talk about the League's Policy on Climate Change, and how we can take action locally (See *Climate*, p. 8)

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

Our League is a Sanctuary

by Nancy Kleiber



I'm proud that our local League chapter has set out an ambitious program calendar this year to study some of the biggest issues facing our country today: healthcare, immigration, climate change, voting rights. Our September meetings on healthcare couldn't have been more timely, happening amidst the rancorous proceedings in Congress. Regardless of our party affiliation, the one thing we can all agree upon is that 'It's complicated.' That's why I appreciate exploring difficult and contentious issues through LWVMC. The League affords us a sanctuary to learn, to question, to discuss these topics in an atmosphere of civility and non-partisanship. I'm glad to be a League member and I want to thank all of you for your continuing courtesy and passion.

In October our focus is on climate change. The League has a strong position on climate change, supporting legislation that seeks to protect our country from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing

pathways to economic prosperity. To see the latest national League activities on the environment visit <http://lwv.org/issues/defending-environment>

While we can only scratch the surface on such a broad, complex subject as climate change, the League does provide additional resources as every League position is backed by an in-depth study. You can find good background material at <http://lwv.org/content/climate-change-and-cryosphere>, which is a task force paper published in 2015 entitled "Climate Change and the Cryosphere." Then come to our October 10 meeting to develop our collective awareness on the subject.

Another fascinating article is available on one of my favorite websites, CALMatters.org. Entitled "California Submerging: Rising seas are claiming its famed coast faster than scientists imagined," the article by Julie Cart, dated April 25, 2017, addresses the particular topic of our October 24 evening meeting.

September meeting

Single-Payer Healthcare for California?

by Jary Stavely

The League kicked off its fall program season at the Caspar Community Center on September 26 with a summary of SB562, the single payer healthcare bill introduced in the California Legislature this year. Thirty-six members of the League and of the public came out for the presentation, offered both at the traditional 10 AM, and again at 6:30 PM.

Marian Shostrom and Harry Baker, members of the LWV of Diablo Valley, and of Health Care for All—Contra Costa County, were the featured speakers for the program. They shared with the audience that part of their background in becoming activists for single payer was a result of their

daughter's medical experience. Now 28, she was born with a congenital heart defect which required the continuous attention of a pediatric cardiologist. They were thankful that their employer-sponsored insurance could provide the needed coverage, but were shocked to find, at the time of her 21st birthday, that Kaiser would not be able to provide it after she turned 23. The subsequent implementation of the ACA (Obamacare) extended her coverage through age 26, but the experience strengthened their realization that care such as their family received should be available to all, not just the fortunately employed. For them, SB562 would (see Single-Payer, next page)

(Single-payer, continued)

provide people "with the healthcare they deserve and need, not with only that which they can afford."

The legislation, referred to as Healthy California, provides a single payer structure for healthcare, similar to Medicare, which would do away with the inefficiency of the current system's reliance on private insurance, and, the speakers said, would bring California's costs in line with those of other industrialized countries. According to one of the charts they presented, the US ranks below 35 other countries in healthcare outcomes, and its costs are between 50% and 125% higher, per capita, than the next 17. Their summary showed that even since the advent of the ACA, people's insurance premiums, deductibles, and copays are steadily increasing. SB562 would eliminate all such payments by individual families.

A previous single payer bill, authored by Sheila Kuehl, passed the legislature, but was vetoed twice by former Gov. Schwarzenegger, and did not specify how the replacement system would be funded. The presenters showed information from a report by Robert Pollin and others at the Political Economy Research Institute at UMass Amherst, which analyzes methods for funding SB562. According to that report, although overall expenditures for healthcare in California would be reduced by 10% under the single payer system, additional revenue of \$106B would be needed beyond current levels of public spending. This is proposed to be covered by a 2.3% gross business tax, with the first \$2M exempted for the benefit of small businesses, in combination with either a 2.3% increase in the sales tax, or a progressive payroll tax. Several graphs and tables showing the comparative effects of these taxes were presented, including one which pointed out that a family of four with \$200/mo. in sales tax expenditures would have an increased burden of \$4.60 a month.

The Healthy California Act was passed by the senate in June, but unilaterally tabled by Assembly Speaker Rendon until next year, to be considered by a special select committee instead of the usual procedure of going through the Rules and Health Committees. SB562 advocates fear that it will never be taken up, despite the fact that, unlike the

previous legislation, it does contain specific proposals for funding. The Speaker's actions have had the effect of preventing the consideration of amendments which might facilitate its approval. Mr. Rendon, as well as north coast assemblyman Jim Wood, have been quoted as advocating "universal" healthcare, but the presenters pointed out that their statements may only apply to making insurance available to all, rather than providing actual health services to all. Public records show that Rendon and Wood have both received sizeable amounts of campaign funding from medical insurance and pharmaceutical companies, which could influence them to protect the industry as it is. So Ms. Shostrom and Mr. Baker urged listeners to help put pressure, especially on Assemblyman Wood, to instead support the concept of single payer and allow SB562 to be considered by the Assembly as a whole. Health Care for All is planning a Statewide day of canvassing on October 14–15.

More information on the bill and on the campaign to support it is available at www.healthcareforall.org, www.HealthyCA.org, and info@HealthyCA.org.

The presenters' Powerpoint presentation may be requested from the voter@mcn.org.



*Presenters Marian Shostrom and Harry Baker.
Photo by Lee Tepper.*



Photo by Jacky Ayala

Hispanic Heritage Fiesta

The local Latino Coalition, our partner organization for immigration issues, held a fiesta at Bainbridge Park in Fort Bragg on September 24. League member Linda Jupiter was there, and sent us this report:

It was a wonderful event; there were five vendors of delicious food who were more than busy all day. I worked with Joanna at the science table. She had gone to SR the day before to buy dry ice and we gave hundreds (it seemed) balloons with dry ice in them to kids and they could see the balloons blow up without any air in them. We also gave out cups with dry ice, a bit of dishwashing liquid, and some hot water -- the combination made the cups overflow with bubbles. They were both a big hit. Patty from Down Home was doing face painting. We had Eva working with children and adults alike making corn husk dolls, and Patty from Down Home was doing face painting. There were performers, music, and lots of games going on all day in the Center, for both kids and adults. Juliana emceed the games and no matter where you were, everyone could see and hear them. Everything from musical chairs (using hula hoops) to donut eating (donuts hanging from strings attached to wood, and whoever ate the entire donut, without using

their hands, won. Miranda Ramos was also there to talk with folks about the immigration process and their rights.

Responses to DACA Decision

by Jary Stavely

Since President Trump announced his decision to revoke the status of the individuals who had been shielded from deportation by the DACA program, members of the Latino Coalition have assembled a number of "resources to prepare for raids and other immigration enforcement actions" which can be used to protect the rights of people subject to action by ICE. The new office at Mendocino College (See September 2017 *Voter*) was also busy in September providing workshops for immigrant students on preparing their applications for extensions of status.

The State also responded, as outlined in this press release passed on by the local Latino Coalition:

SACRAMENTO – Legislative leaders and Governor Jerry Brown have agreed to provide \$30 million in assistance to Dreamers in response to President Trump’s recent decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. “We will not let one man with xenophobic tendencies undercut years of progress we have made in California to integrate these young adults into our society and economy,” said Senator President pro Tempore Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles). “California is their home and they are our future.”

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) added: “The new funding for DACA services we are adding to the budget will provide answers and help young Californians stay in the only country they’ve ever known. Donald Trump may love chaos. These kids don’t deserve it.”

The financial support for DACA recipients will come from \$20 million in additional funding for immigration legal services under the One California program. This new funding will be specifically targeted to assist DACA recipients. An additional \$10 million in financial aid for Dreamers will be broken down as follows: \$7 million for California community college students; \$2 million for California State University students via the Dream Loan Program; \$1 million for University of California students via the Dream Loan Program.

Sheriff Explains Mental Health Initiative

Measure B, a countywide initiative for improved mental health facilities in Mendocino County, will appear on the November 7 ballot. Sheriff Tom Allman's talk about it at the Harbor Lite Lodge meeting room on September 28 was hosted by the Coast Democrats group. He reviewed many of the reasons for the proposal, which would re-establish Psychiatric Holding Facility (PHF) capability within the county. Many were the same as he had given in support of the similar Measures AG and AH on the November 2016 ballot (see the *Voter* for November 2016, p.4). That measure captured more than 66% of the votes.

This time, he said, the initiative has 100% support from the Board of Supervisors. A significant difference this year is the provision of ongoing funding for support and ancillary services for the facility. The measure proposes the enactment of a half cent additional sales tax for 5 years, reduced to an eighth of a cent thereafter until repealed by a majority vote of the electorate.

During the development phase the monies raised (\$28M) would be divided: 75% for the facility (or facilities) to be created and 25% for support services. The revenue from the reduced tax after the first five years (\$1.7M per year) would be devoted to continuing and solidifying the services.

The proposal establishes an 11-member commission, appointed by the five supervisors and six other stakeholders (including the sheriff), to decide just how and where to develop the mental health facilities needed, in order to best meet the needs of the county as a whole. Mr. Allman told his audience that since 30% of the population and taxes come from the coast, he expects a proportional amount of infrastructure and services to be developed here.

During a wide-ranging question and answer session, the sheriff reiterated his vision for the development of a training facility which would train law enforcement and other personnel in the best practices to use in handling mental health crises. Such training may help prevent unnecessary use of

firearms in such incidents, avoiding hideous situations, which put police departments in an unwanted media spotlight. No such training is now available in the state, and Mr. Allman believes our county could serve as a model, helping other areas and agencies improve their crisis management capabilities.

Opinion

The Buzz on B

by Dorine Real

Measure B will be all alone on most voters' ballots for the November election, which will actually be starting this month, as soon as ballots are mailed. Most Mendocino County voters live in compulsory vote-by-mail precincts.

Turnout is even more important than usual in such "off year" elections. Initiatives are often timed for off-years because "yes" voters are more likely to turn out and smaller numbers are required to win. However, the use of mail-ins may change this situation. Also, the voters of the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District will have a disproportionate influence on the result, since they will be turning out for an election of their own.

Your LWVMC Board continues to discuss endorsing Measure B. We studied Measures AG and AH last year, and there is a lot of support in our League for mental health services. The current proposal is an improvement, in supporters' eyes, because it provides for the funding of ongoing services as well as facilities. Nobody wants to see expensive facilities shuttered because of lack of operating funds. However, this funding goes against a long-standing general policy of LWVUS, that budgeting should be done by legislatures (in this case, the Supervisors) in response to changing priorities.

As we saw last year, the 2/3 majority needed to pass a measure that includes a tax is very hard to achieve. Voters who encounter a tax proposal for the first time when they are ready to vote, typically vote "no." So especially if you support Measure B it is important to talk about it. Create a buzz. Get your neighbors thinking about the advantages (and disadvantages) *before* they vote.

LWVUS Keeps Acting for All of Us

Our national League has recently taken action on healthcare, fair elections, the DACA crisis, and even climate change. Here is a summary:

Graham-Cassidy Health Care Proposal Rejected by U.S. Senate

The U.S. Senate's latest attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act failed this week. Graham-Cassidy would have eliminated affordable quality health care for millions of Americans by gutting the Affordable Care Act (ACA); slashed federal funding and destroyed Medicaid by turning its funding into per capita caps; eliminated the Medicaid expansion, and defunded Planned Parenthood health centers.

Supreme Court Rally to End Gerrymandering

On Tuesday October 3, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the redistricting case *Gill v. Whitford*. This is promising to be a landmark case that could shape the national landscape for partisan gerrymandering. The League filed an amicus brief in *Gill v. Whitford* arguing that partisan gerrymandering violates the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. On the morning of the hearing, LWVUS participated in **The Supreme Court Rally to End Gerrymandering!**

League Submits Brief in *Husted v. A. Phillip Randolph Institute*

LWVUS and LWVOH submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Husted v. A. Phillip Randolph Institute*. The case will be heard by the court on November 8, 2017. The amicus brief argues that the process used by Ohio to purge voters from voter rolls is illegal, inaccurate and unreasonable under the provisions established by Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

LWVC: Action Alerts on California Issues

The California League recently issued action alerts on two bills awaiting the Governor's signature. Brown has already signed the California Values Act, but the Disclose Act is now on his desk. LWVC says:

The swift action of League supporters like you helped put the California Disclose Act on the

League Supports We the People Democracy Reform Act

The legislation has been introduced by in the House and Senate with Senator Udall (D-NM) and Representative Price (D-NC4) and offers a clear path forward for improving our democracy. This legislation will elevate the voices of the American people so we can be heard over the special interests and partisan bickering. This bill will strengthen our elections with automatic and online registration, enabling more voters to participate in our great democracy

League Calls on Congress to Pass Clean DREAM Act

The League joined the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and over 180 organizations calling on Congress to immediately pass the DREAM Act without amendment. The call for action comes in the wake of President Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Members of the League's Lobby Corps will also be visiting members of the U.S. House on this legislation.

League Files Additional Amicus Brief in *Juliana et al v. United States*

The League of Women Voters United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) filed an Amicus Brief in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of *Juliana et al v. United States*. The Leagues continue to support the 21 young people from across the United States who have filed a landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit against the federal government, via the Eugene, Oregon-based organization, Our Children's Trust. The brief asks the Circuit Court to deny the petition of the defendants which seeks to dismiss the case.

governor's desk. Now we need your help one more time to expose the big money funding campaign ads. [**Tell Governor Brown to sign AB 249 today, because transparency matters!**](#)

The link allows you to send your message online.

City Planning Future Use of Fort Bragg Mill Site

by Jary Stavely

The City of Fort Bragg is again seeking public input on rezoning the former lumber mill site west of Main Street. Georgia-Pacific, the owner of the 325 acres that remain after the City acquired land for the new coastal trails, dropped out of the planning process in 2012. A rezoning plan prepared at that time was rejected by the California Coastal Commission as too extensive. The City Council will discuss and refine the rezoning at City Hall meetings throughout the fall, and anticipates completing the rezoning process by December 2018, with reuse of the Mill Site starting soon thereafter.

Marie Jones, the City’s Community Development Director, held two open house/community workshops in September seeking participants’ planning priorities, and inviting them to choose acceptable levels of development -- reductions from the 2012 plan of 1/3, 1/2, or 2/3. This reporter felt a wave of League nostalgia, as he was invited to indicate his preferences with a set of colored circular stickers.

According to information displayed at the workshop, the city council originally thought that development of the millsite would be accomplished by large developers who would be able to include some of the needed infrastructure (e.g. streets, lights, water mains) in their plans. It has turned out that there is limited interest from such large contractors, so it is now thought that development will take place in a more piecemeal fashion, through the involvement of smaller local contractors and business owners, and funding for the needed infrastructure is an open question.

In addition to expressing preferences for kinds of housing, kinds of businesses, and levels of open space, attendees were also invited to develop their own plans on maps with colored pens and pencils. During my time at the event, George Reinhardt of NHUDG was on hand to urge extensive daylighting of Alder and Maple Creeks.

The public is also invited to participate online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Millsite> , where posters from the open houses are also available as background information.

LWVMC 2017-18 Contact List

Board of Directors

Co-President:	Cindy Plank	357-4272	theplanks@yahoo.com
Co-President:	Nancy Kleiber	964-6862	nkleiberca@mac.com
Vice President:	Dorine Real	964-2781	dorine@mcn.org
Secretary:	Sharon Gilligan	964-3600	sharongilligan@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Lee Tepper	964-2781	eel@mcn.org
Voter Service:	Carol Czadek	964-9271	norcoel@mcn.org
Membership:	Jary Stavely	964-4942	jstavely@mcn.org
Directors:	Roberta Brockschmidt	964-3600	rrbrockschmidt@comcast.net
	Carol Czadek	964-9271	norcoel@mcn.org
	Pat Dunbar	937-3409	pdunbar@mcn.org
	Babs Levine	937-0629	babs.levine@gmail.com
	Jane Person	964-6351	janeperson@hotmail.com

Voter staff

[mailto: voter@mcn.org](mailto:voter@mcn.org)
 Editors: Jary Stavely, Lee Tepper

Mailing address:
 P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg CA 95437

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1/>

Website: <http://mendo.ca.lwvnet.org>

Off-Board Committee Chairs

Budget: Jim Plank
 Nominating: Patricia Marien

Telephone: 937-4952 (messages)

(Climate, from p. 1)

to mitigate its effects. “Climate change is a global issue, but that doesn’t mean we’re helpless. In fact, much of the solution will be what may seem like just small changes. And most of the changes are local.”

Joining Diz Swift will be Fort Bragg Community Development Director Marie Jones, who will talk about local long term strategic planning for sea level rise. Topics include coordinating with planning commissions, building departments, and CalTrans; effects at the Mill Site and Noyo Harbor; tourism; and Fort Bragg City services.

There will be time for audience questions and comments, so this should be a very informative meeting. As always, *Voter* readers are encouraged to bring friends and neighbors along. Doors will open at 6:00, with the presentation beginning a half hour later.



Marie Jones. Photo by Becky Bowen

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION POLICY

Adopted by the LWVUS Board of Directors March 26, 2017

The League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of the environmental protection movement for decades, consistently supporting legislation to preserve our nation’s natural resources and protect our public health and safety. We support legislation that seeks to protect our country from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity. Global climate change is the greatest environmental challenge of our generation. California plays an important role in the climate change discussion, and what this state does is crucial. California produces seven percent of U.S. greenhouse gases (GHG) and is in 18th place in global emissions of GHG among countries (2013).

California is also playing a leadership role in reducing emissions, and regions within the state and local communities are taking steps to minimize the impacts of climate change by adoption of Climate Action Plans, Regional Climate Plans, and Sustainability Strategies, addressing sea level rise, and creating Adaption and Resiliency (Readiness) Plans.

Local Leagues are urged to engage at their local and regional levels. Our actions are to:

- Promote energy conservation and efficiency in transportation, buildings, and infrastructure, including energy efficiency standards and land use policies that reduce vehicle miles travelled.
- Promote carbon pricing by market mechanisms such as cap and trade systems and carbon taxes.
- Promote a clean, low-carbon energy economy that is sustainable, including all forms of renewable energy and transportation infrastructure.
- Promote policies that mitigate impacts of climate change by adaptation in urban, rural, agricultural, and natural settings.
- Promote basic research and technology development, encouraging the use of a portfolio of technologies.
- Promote solutions that ease consequences of climate-related hardships to low and moderate income households.
- Promote public access and involvement in the decision-making process.

Dear Members,

Every year at this time we begin a new program year, and we also solicit your annual dues. If you are reading this now in the *Voter*, please take a minute to mail your dues, or mark your calendar to bring them along to our meeting on October 10th. The more dues we collect at this time, the less we will spend on postage asking later on.

As you know, our dues support the national, state and local League. They are \$60.00 for an individual membership, and \$90.00 for a 2-member household. The vast majority of your dues is passed on to the U.S. and the California Leagues, leaving less than \$2 of them for local use. 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 level 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 its 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.

Jary Stavely

Renew Your Membership

Although we recently have had to increase our dues, membership in The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County continues to be a bargain and a statement. You will be saying that you are committed to the ballot as a means for change and to providing non-biased information to voters. The issues your League follows are those that affect every resident’s family and community. Get involved in the League of Women Voters. Dues for 2017-2018 cover the period between September 2017 and September 2018.

Please consider joining at one of these levels:

- Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership ... \$60
- Amelia Bloomer Two-member Household Membership ... \$90
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership ... \$100
- Carrie Chapman Catt Membership ... \$250 or more _____
- Donation ... _____

Name/Names: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State ____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to: LWV Mendocino County

And mail to: LWVMC P.O. Box 1128 Fort Bragg, CA 95437