Vol. 62 No. 6 June 2021

# President's Message

The League year is winding down, and we all met for the Annual Meeting, May 20, to celebrate the accomplishments of the last year and planning for the year to come. And what a year it has been! There is an article in the VOTER to catch the highlights of the meeting if you were not able to attend. Special thanks go to Maggie Gaynor and Krista Miller for a terrific presentation on Zero Waste Humboldt and practical ideas for reducing waste and plastics in our environment. Look for Leslie Leach's article in this VOTER to learn how all of us can do our part in reducing waste.

Thank you, **Leslie Leach**, for working with the LWV Water Committee and sharing the information from the committee in the VOTER and being a voice for Northern California on the committee. The perspective of our region is important to the work of the committee.

The new year will bring two new presidents to the League: **Sharolyn Hutton** and **Jessica Schlachter**. As I step off as president, I want to thank the Board and all the members for their wonderful support over these last two years. Thank you for all the creative ways found to continue the work of the League, even in a pandemic, and for bringing important information to voters in our community. It has been a pleasure to work with this hard working, all volunteer Board. I thank them and all the members for their dedication to the mission of the League in Humboldt. It has been utterly amazing work and awe inspiring. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this League. I am truly grateful.

#### Deborah Downs LWVHC President

## Our Mission Statement...

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## Got Video Production Skills?

The LWVHC is seeking members with video production skills who would like to help us enhance our social media presence, especially with YouTube. We want to spread the word about our events and other activities as effectively and widely as possible.

Can you help? Please contact our board president, Deborah Downs at lwvdbrh@gmail.com.

And, thank you!



Remembering Bev Post

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the loss of our long-time League friend, Bev Post. She died just a few days before her 91st birthday. She was a staunch supporter of the League and our mission, and she was always ready to help where she was needed. She volunteered many times to help with the Bear River and the Wiyot elections, and she participated in voter registration events. She kept us all smiling with her jokes and teasing. Bev taught nursing at College of the Redwoods when she first moved to Humboldt County. She was an excellent bridge player, and was always willing to help a novice learn a new trick or two. She loved travel, reading mysteries, and showing off her garden. We will all miss her smile and her willingness to help.

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# Board Briefs from the May 11, 2021 LWVHC Board Meeting

The LWV State Convention will take place on June 11 – June 13. LWVHC can send at least four delegates. It was determined that our delegates will be Jessica Schlachter, Sharolynn Hutton, Maggie Augustine, and Sylvia Shaw. They will attend and represent LWVHC as voting members. In the past, we have contributed \$250 in support of the convention. The Board voted to support the convention again this year.

**Jessica Schlachter** reported on the April 27 Legislative Interview that she attended with other Northern CA Leagues and Senator Mike McGuire. Mike McGuire is a proponent of SB 2 and he'd like the League's assistance in supporting this. Also discussed was AB 2626, a no-bail initiative that is working in Sonoma County. SB262 and AB329 are similar bills making changes to current law regarding bail. The Board will be discussing this further.

**SOCL Update:** The September 2021 State of the Community has been cancelled because we would only be able to have 100 attendees, and that doesn't meet our needs. April 22, 2022 is the new projected date (already reserved at the Adorni Center.) We'll have the same award recipients.

The Zero Waste Humboldt Membership Meeting on May 2 was discussed and deemed to be a success. Leslie Leach sent a thank you note sent to Maggie Gainer and Krista Miller for their information and presentation. Leslie will approach Maggie Gainer to see if we can publish some of her articles about Zero Waste and recycling that are being published in *Mad River Union* in possible future VOTERS.

Anne Hartline Secretary, LWVHC



# Board Briefs from the April 13, 2021 LWVHC Board Meeting

These board briefs should have been in the May issue, but they were not due to an error by Leslie Leach

#### Citizen's Guide Update

Nancy Kay has been working on an update to the LWVHC publication *Citizens Guide to County Government*, though the task has been more challenging than originally expected. Nancy is creating a document of the CG so future editing can be more easily accomplished. She has put in more than 40 hours on this so far, and there's more to do. It was decided by the Board that this update should take place after Annual Meeting. The Board especially thanks Nancy Kay, Becky Simpson, and Judy Bennett for their extra efforts on this project.

#### Celebrating 100 Years of Voting on August 14

The committee for this event is working hard on plans. Please see Nancy Kay's article in this month's VOT-ER. One concern of the committee is their need for adequate and appropriate publicity about the event (including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) League members who would like to help and have experience with these formats are urged to contact **Nancy Kay**.

#### Membership

It has been announced that the North Country Fair will be taking place this year on September 18 and 19. We will discuss LWVHC's possible participation in this event at our June board meeting, and we'll let our membership know about our decision afterward.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Two additional upcoming events, the Annual Meeting on May 20 and the Zero Waste Humboldt meeting on May 2, were also discussed. Look for information about both in this April *VOTER*.

Anne Hartline Secretary, LWVHC



# Annual Meeting Highlights

The volunteers to review and approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting are **Judy Bennett, Ann Diehl, Alan** and **Mary Lou Lowry.** 

Treasurer's Report by Nancy Kay showed total assets of \$21,972 of unrestricted cash and Restricted assets for education purposes, invested at the Humboldt Area Foundation, of \$54,028.

The President, **Deborah Downs**, reported the activities of the last year and the creative ways the Board worked to continue the work of the League in a time of a pandemic. A marketing consultant was hired to help the League do the normal work but virtually. We helped the community understand how to register and how to vote in this unusual election season. YouTube videos of the forums were taped via Zoom. This was a popular information platform and plans for continuing this process will be discussed.

**Byrd Lochtie**, chairing the Governance Committee, recommended a change to the bylaws that would incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion that is in keeping with the LWV US position.

The budget as proposed by the committee was approved by the members. In addition, members voted to switch the Annual Meeting Kit to an online version and reduce the cost of printing and mailing the kit to all members.

Judy Bennett led the Proposed Program and changes to the following positions were approved:

Foster Care

Eureka City Government

Hazardous Waste

Public Health Services

The members approved the recommendation to have a study done on behavioral/mental health, and a number of individuals volunteered to help with the study.

The nominating committee led by **Judy Bennett** recommended a slate of members for the Board and the slate was adopted by the members.

**Judy Bennett** was acknowledged for all the work she did in support of the League this last year, including the Program Planning for the state, and legislative interviews. Her hard work and dedication to the League was sincerely appreciated.

The Board was appreciated for their hard work and creative ideas to get through this year when so much has been shut down for most of the year.

The new Board members will start on July 1, and the June Board meeting will be a transition from the previous Board to the new Board.

Recommendations from members to the Board included:

Working with Cooperation Humboldt and city governments to provide information to individuals, especially young people, interested in participating in government and volunteer opportunities in the community.

Deborah Downs President, LWVHC



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## LWVC Convention 2021 -- Virtual Experience

The LWVC convention is scheduled for June 7-13, 2021 (Monday-Sunday). There will be plenary sessions, caucuses, and workshops, something for everyone.

For more information and registration go to the LWVC website: <u>LWVC.Wordpress.com</u>.

There you can register as a delegate or as a non-voting attendee. Just select the option that pertains to your status. Delegates may vote; non-voting attendee may not.

There is no registration deadline for non-voting attendees.

Our delegates to the LWVC Convention are Jessica Schlachter, Sharolynn Hutton, Sylvia Shaw, and Maggie Augustine.

Maggie Augustine Voter Service Director, LWVHC

## Avenue of the Giants Marathon

You may have noticed that the Avenue was cancelled this year along with many other things due to Covid-19. Our League has staffed an aid station near Meyers Flat for over twenty years. Each year brings in between \$300 and \$500. Over the years we have added between 4 to 5 thousand dollars to our treasury and had a good time doing it. It has also raised awareness and good will for the League and helped the runners as well.

Ordinarily held the first Sunday in May, this year, the organizers have rescheduled it for **September 19, 2021** (Sunday, 9/19/21). **If you are willing to help staff the aid station, let me know NOW and I will contact you over the** summer. I have committed League to do it again, so I'll need about ten of us to handle it. We aren't so active in the summer so this is a new routine. I'm not as fast as I used to be, so I can't do it all by myself. HELP!



Kay Escarda 442-7495 kay.escarda@gmail,com

## An Invitation to LWVHC Members

The Humboldt Branch of the American Association of University Women, AAUW invites you to join us for a special event.

#### **Coming Soon – A Life Plan Community**

A new tax-exempt nonprofit has been formed to plan, build, and support a mixed-income Life Plan Community in Humboldt County, California. Life Care Humboldt (LCH) will help those of us who love living in this beautiful area stay close to friends and family, still live independently, but get support if we need it.

Join Life Care Humboldt Board President, Dr. Ann Lindsay to find out more about this exciting opportunity to plan for your future!

Saturday, June 5 from 10-11 a.m. The link below allows you to register for this event.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87054539501?pwd=M2FjcGJ0UGVmd3Z3K0hUa3FyUHRkZz09

## Local and State Program Planning

Earlier this year, at our annual Planning Meeting, our League members voted to include Water as an area of emphasis under Natural Resources for LWVC's Program. We also voted to keep working on Proposition 15, and housing and how homelessness affects mental health as areas of emphasis. Much interest was shown in criminal justice reform and redistricting as it affects the North Coast.

Dr. Diz Swift, LWVC Natural Resources Director sent the following information abou the LWVC Board-recommended Program for 2021-2023:

Retain all existing LWVC positions

- No new study or update study for 2021-2023
- Adopt the following as Issues for Emphasis for 2021-2023
- Making Democracy Work in California, with a focus on election reform, voting rights, expanding the electorate, redistricting, money in politics and civic education.
- Climate Change/Sustainability, including a focus on Water.
- Housing and Homelessness
- Criminal Justice Reform, expanding our education and advocacy on policing and criminal justice reform. Use this link for more information about LWVC's 2021-2023 recommended Program.

Leslie Leach Natural Resources Director, LWVHC

## An Interview with State Senator Mike McGuire

On April 27, **Jessica Schlachter** and **Sharolyn Hutton** of the League of Women Voters Humboldt County joined with representatives from the Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino County Leagues to meet with California State Sen. Mike McGuire.

The main question McGuire was asked dealt with criminal justice reform. He supports **SB-300** which "will reform California's unjust 'felony murder special circumstance' law to ensure that the death penalty and life without the possibility of parole cannot be imposed on those who did not kill, nor intend that a person die, during a crime" and supports ending the death penalty, believing it to be inhumane and a waste of taxpayer money. He also supports **SB-262** and **AB-329**, which would both reform the bail system in California, abolishing cash bail. The representatives from the Sonoma County LWV shared that bail reform had already been implemented in their county and provided documentation that it works quite well, with 80 percent of those released pre-trial without bail returning for their trial.

He also supports **SB-2**, which "would establish new standards and processes to investigate and determine peace officer fitness and to certify and decertify such officers. It would also establish a new standard for establishing liability, eliminate the application of certain government immunities, and allow wrongful death actions." as he believes that it is a commonsense bill that would help garner community trust, as it would prevent bad cops from just transferring to a different department.

Regarding the state housing crisis and droughts, McGuire mentioned **SB-6**, which would turn dead or dying malls and office parks into multi-unit housing, and **SB-7**, which would quicken the review process on housing units. In addition, the state government is taking action on a drought relief package, focusing on small/rural counties that also includes provisions for endangered species and drought prevention.

McGuire stressed the need to get as many Californians vaccinated as possible, as it is the quickest way to return to normal. In addition, he asked for the League's help educating the public on and promoting **SB-2**. (continued on the next page)

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All participants found the conversation to be very enlightening, and McGuire expressed interest in making meetings with the local Leagues a regular occurrence.

Jessica Schlachter Social and Traditional Media Chair, LWVHC

# Summary of the Meeting about Zero Waste Humboldt

On Sunday, May 2, 2021, LWVHC members met via Zoom to learn about Zero Waste Humboldt from speakers Maggie Gainer, President of Zero Waste Humboldt and Krista Miller, Vice President.

Maggie began by explaining how litter in California's parks and highways became a threat to tourism. Litter abatement then led to recycling during the 60s and 70s. During the 80s and 90s, there was a great concern that California was running out of room for landfills, a euphemism for garbage dumps. Now we are faced with a crisis of too much garbage, especially single-use plastic. Maggie then emphasized what we need to understand and work toward to combat this problem: "In the absence of an equal commitment of public and private resources for waste prevention, recycling only accommodates wastefulness. Over-emphasis on recycling is the biggest public education challenge for waste prevention. The Redwood Coast needs to develop an infrastructure to support reuse and recycling. Integrating recyclable material into our local economy is essential."

Next, Maggie and Krista informed us that Zero Waste Humboldt takes a comprehensive approach to waste management "with an upstream emphasis on resource conservation and Waste Prevention strategies first." Their efforts are "based on 10 international principles, including the following:

Strive for the 'highest and best use' of recovered materials, integrate the material into the local economy as manufacturing feedstock – "CIRCULAR ECONOMY."

More rigor and attention to metrics, measurement, and monitoring, to establish baseline data Fearless Goal-setting

These principles are from those of Zero Waste International Alliance <a href="https://ZWIA.org">https://ZWIA.org</a>

Maggie and Krista went on to tell us more about the work of Zero Waste Humboldt:

It's "the only local organization specializing in waste reduction solutions.

It provides three Main Services:

- 1. Public Education (demonstration models)
- 2. Advocacy and Policy Development
- 3. Training and Technical Assistance

Those who work for Zero Waste Humboldt "ask difficult questions, seek science-based and creative solutions to develop practical, affordable models to reduce waste, always emphasize Prevention first, and they tend to make everyone a little uncomfortable!"

Leaguers learned of the following ways we can reduce waste:

- "Replace single-use products and packaging in your business, school, event, or home with <u>durable</u>, <u>refillable</u>, <u>returnable</u>, <u>reusable</u>.
- If you must use a single-use product or package, switch from plastic to paper that can decompose without plastic coating, chemical additives, or bleach.
- Be sure to buy products that are reused or made with recycled content. This is market development."

Finally, the key points made are as follows:

"Fifty years of experience and changing social, economic, environmental and legislative conditions call (continued on the next page)

for new approaches emphasizing waste prevention, materials reuse, and composting.

Recycling has been used as an excuse to not do better and prevent waste.

Personal responsibility and daily life habits= Climate Activism."

For more information about Zero Waste Humboldt, please visit https://zerowastehumboldt.org/

The LWVHC thanks Maggie and Krista for an informative and interesting meeting on an extremely important topic.

To further inform the public about recycling, Maggie Gainer has written three articles, and the linkes are provided below: the first is about the history of recycling, the second is about the problem of recycling contamination, and the third is about how you and I can fix the problem of recycling contamination.

- 1 https://madriverunion.com/maggie-gainer-how-we-got-here-the-early-development-of-recycling/
- 2 https://madriverunion.com/margaret-gainer-conditions-leading-to-recycling-contamination/
- 3 https://madriverunion.com/margaret-gainer-you-and-i-can-fix-recycling-contamination/

Leslie Leach LWVHC Natural Resources Director

## Gun Violence and Hate Crimes in America

The League of Women Voters has been taking positions on gun violence in America for more than three decades.

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.

In April, the Biden administration announced six initial actions to address the gun violence public health epidemic:

- 1. The Justice Department, within 30 days, will issue a proposed rule to help stop the proliferation of "ghost guns."
- 2. The Justice Department, within 60 days, will issue a proposed rule to make clear when a device marketed as a stabilizing brace effectively turns a pistol into a short-barreled rifle subject to the requirements of the Nation al Firearms Act.
- 3. The Justice Department, within 60 days, will publish model "red flag" legislation for states. Red flag laws allow family members or law enforcement to petition for a court order temporarily barring people in crisis from accessing firearms if they present a danger to themselves or others.
- 4. The Administration is investing in evidence-based community violence interventions. The American Jobs Plan proposes a \$5 billion investment over eight years to support community violence intervention programs. A key part of community violence intervention strategies is to help connect individuals to job training and job opportunities.

(continued on the next page)

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- 5. The Justice Department will issue an annual report on firearms trafficking.
- 6. The President will nominate David Chipman to serve as Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

The League has also taken steps against violence and discrimination:

In March 2021, the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Georgia issued the following statement in response to the rise in hate crimes against the Asian American Pacific Islanders community, including the mass shootings across Atlanta on March 16th:

"The League of Women Voters grieves the murders of the eight individuals who were killed on Tuesday, March 16th, and the countless other AAPI lives that have been tragically taken as a result of racially motivated violence."

The League added, "We cannot fight the racism, hate, and impunity that threaten the lives of AAPIs unless our leadership takes the necessary actions to denounce racist violence and demand accountability in its wake."

Dave Rosso VOTER Editor, LWVHC

### **Desalination**

Desalination (de-sal) is the process of separating salt from water. Humans have been doing it throughout the ages in pursuit of either salt or freshwater. It takes energy to separate salt from water, but advances in polymer membrane technology and operational learning have reduced the required energy so it has become a viable and important option for coastal cities in arid climates.

Most people think of de-sal in terms of making freshwater from seawater. The amount of energy required is largely determined by the amount of salt that needs to be separated out. Thus, starting from brackish water, which is less saline than sea water, less energy for de-sal is needed. Similarly, starting with sewage wastewater can also result in energy savings, although it adds pretreatment complexity. (This is why potable reuse is almost as expensive as de-sal.)

**How is Desalination Done?** In the process called Reverse Osmosis (RO) seawater is drawn in through screened intakes, further filtered and chemically pre-treated as would be done with any other environmental source of water. The salty water is then pushed under pressure (applied energy!) through pipes full of holes, tightly wound with layers of semi-permeable polymer membranes. Because only small water molecules can pass through the membranes, freshwater exits the outside of the membrane roll while the inside pipe contains concentrated salty brine.

Brine is sent to the ocean in miles-long undersea pipes and released with diffusers/rotors to help the brine mix quickly to near ambient salinity. This reduces the negative impact on marine life. Brine lines have long been used to dispose of effluent from municipal wastewater treatment plants, cleanup of industrial wastewater and from de-sal plants serving inland areas that rely on brackish well water.

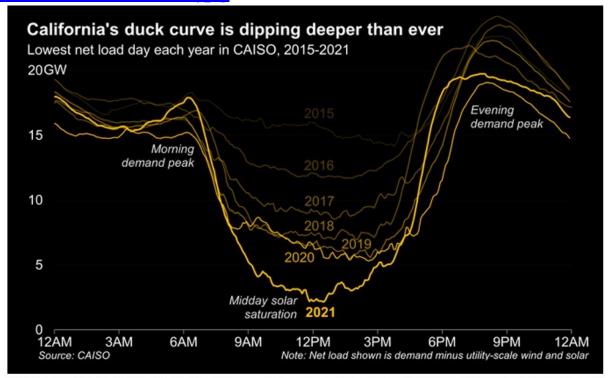
**Desalination Use and Costs** As the cost of de-sal goes down, and the cost of other sources increases (or the supplies become scarce), de-sal has become more popular. There are over 20,000 de-sal plants of all sizes in operation globally, including a small one for a brackish well in my community that I never noticed until I started researching this issue.

During Australia's Millennium Drought, Australia began building desalination plants in every coastal city. Now that the drought is over, de-sal supplies 17-50% of each coastal cities' water. When the next drought hits, Australia's largest cities will be well-prepared. Ironically, during the floods of March 2021, de-(continued on the next page)

sal saved Sydney's drinking water system from contaminated river water. Turkey, Israel and Singapore have also built de-sal plants for water security so that they do not have to depend on often-hostile upstream neighbors. The energy cost of de-sal freshwater for a proposed plant near LAX airport is about 4061 kWh/AF (kilowatt hours per acre foot) vs 3254 kWh/AF for imported Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta water, not counting distribution costs, which reduces the difference. In context, desalinated water costs 12.5 wh/gal to produce and LA residents use about 80 gallons/day (with wide variations in use). That's about the same electricity needed to move the smallest Tesla model 3 miles and it requires no highly toxic batteries.

**De-Sal Can Help the Grid** Solar energy development is currently hindered in California because there is not enough demand for daytime electricity. This is seen in the figure below showing California electricity demand throughout the day in the years 2015 to 2021. (The figure is called the "duck curve" because the lines on the graph resemble a duck!)

## Water Duck Curve.jpg



California solar PV electricity production can exceed demand, causing curtailment of solar farms to avoid damaging the grid. Figure courtesy of Brian Bartholomew.

Excess electricity must be curtailed by several methods and that power is lost to the grid. Increasing mid-day demand through de-sal and electric cars (both large electricity consumers) can help advance California's conversion to carbon-free energy. Increasing mid-day demand will eliminate the need to curtail solar farms mid-day. Minimizing the need for curtailment makes solar more profitable and more arrays can be built.

Dr. Grace Peng Member LWVC Water Committee Page 10 THE VOTER June 2021

# Renew Now or Help Someone Become a LWVHC Member!

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

Membership dues and donations to the LWVHC are not tax-deductible.

Donations to the LWVHC-Education Fund, through the Humboldt Area Foundation, <u>are tax</u> deductible.

Annual Dues are due each year on July 1st

Visit www.LWVHC.org or mail the form below!

Please make checks payable to LWVHC, P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502.

Yes! I want to join the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County and become a voice for citizens and a force for change.

and a force for change.		
\$75 Single Membership		
\$115 Family Membership (2 in same household)		
I also want to gift a membership!		
NamePhone		
I am enclosing for my annual membership renewal:		
Name		
Address		
City/State/Zip		
Phone		



e-mail

# The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County

434 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501 P.O. Box 3219, Eureka, CA 95502 www.lwvhc.org vote@lwvhc.org (707) 444-9252

#### Who's Who in Your 2020-2021 League Board

President	Deborah Downs
Vice President	<i>VACANT</i>
Secretary	Anne Hartline
Treasurer	
Program Director	<i>VACANT</i>
Natural Resources Director	
Social Policy Director Government Director	
Access Humboldt Liaison	Molly Cate
Election Service Director	Byrd Lochtie
Forum Director	Carol Masterson
Voter Service Director	Maggie Augustine
Membership Director	Becky Simpson
Social Media Chair	Jessica Schlachter
VOTER Editor	Dave Rosso
Community Education Directo	rNancy Kay
Communication Director	<i>VACANT</i>
Traditional Media Chair	.Jessica Schlachter





P.O. Box 3219 Eureka, CA 95502

To:

## Get Involved!

We all have a unique set of skills to contribute and limited time to afford. Working together we become a viable force for change. Call or email today to say you want to participate.

Visit www.lwvhc.org or call (707) 444-9252.

# Our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic\ that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity

## LWVHC Calendar

Tues. June 8 5:30 p.m.	Board Meeting Zoom
June 7 - 13 See article on p. 4	LWVC Convention Zoom
Saturday, August 15 See p. 3 and p. 4 of the May 2021 VOTER	Celebrating 100 Years of Voting
LWVHC Webpage	Any Time!
LWCHC Twitter	Any Time!