

May 2024 VOTER



May Community Conversation: The State of Local Journalism and Why We Should Care

Thursday, May 16, 2024
4:00 – 5:30 pm on Zoom
(see more below).

IN THIS ISSUE:

- [Leaders' Letter](#)
- [Monthly Lunch, May 8](#)
- [Healthcare Event, Lafayette, May 9](#)
- [Voter Registration, May 11 at DVC](#) -- and more Voter Services
- [Paid Elections Ambassador Trainings](#), apply by **May 14**
- [Community Conversations: Local Journalism](#), on **May 16**
- [Mis/Disinformation Event](#), Walnut Creek, **June 4**
- [Using Zelle for LWVDV payments](#)
- [Board Briefs](#) from April Meeting
- [Membership Updates and Information](#)
- [List of Monthly Board, Social, and Action-Advocacy Meetings](#)
- [LWVDV Board List](#)

The PDF of this issue is available on the [website](#).

Leaders' Letter

Dear League Leaders and Members!

SAVE THE DATE for the Annual Meeting - Our most important meeting of the year is on June 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Community Center. This is when LWVDV members vote to elect the new Board of Directors, approve the 2024-2025 budget and any bylaws changes, affirm our local League's positions, and vote on final program priorities. **We must have a quorum to conduct business**, so your attendance is very important! The meeting will be hybrid (in-person and via Zoom), but we'd love to see you there in person. Coffee and breakfast goodies will be provided. More information, including a toolkit for the meeting, will be sent soon.



As mentioned last month, we have a very busy summer and fall ahead, with all our election-related activities: voter registration, Pros & Cons presentations, candidate roundtables and forums, election observers, and mis- and disinformation presentations. This will be an important year to engage with and inform our communities as they prepare to vote. Please let us know how you can help - we will provide training. For more information, go to <https://my.lwv.org/california/diablo-valley/volunteer>.



We have an active group of members making presentations to local organizations about reliable and factual news sources and how to spot mis- and disinformation. **We will have a special presentation open to the public on June 4th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Walnut Creek Library Oak**

Room. Refreshments will be provided – [see below](#) for more details on the event.

The next virtual Community Conversation, **The State of Local Journalism and Why We Should Care**, is on **Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.** [More information](#) can be found below. Our next monthly no-host LWVDV [luncheon](#) is at 11:30 a.m. on **May 8th** at Bar Camino in Walnut Creek. Come join us for lively conversation and good food!

The month of May commemorates Asian American Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, and Mental Health Awareness Month. Other important dates include:

- 12: Mother’s Day
- 20: 31st anniversary of the *National Voter Registration Act*
 - Blog: [Protecting the National Voter Registration Act](#)
- 27: Memorial Day
- Late May/Early June: Graduation Season
 - Congratulate your graduate with [VOTE411 “Congrats, Grad!” Graphics](#)

As always, thank you for your support!

Anne Granlund, President
Kathy Gallagher, Vice President



May Lunch with the League

Join us for our monthly no-host lunch on **Wednesday, May 8th, at 11:30 am** at Bar Camino, 1470 North Broadway, Walnut Creek. There's easy parking across the street at the library parking lot.

Please let Janet Hoy know you're coming -- you can email her at janet@lwvdv.org. We're looking forward to seeing everyone!

Remedies For a Broken Health Care System Lafayette Library, Thursday, May 9th - 7:00-8:30 pm

Health Care for All (HCA) - Contra Costa and Alameda County Chapters invite you to a presentation and discussion about current healthcare costs, quality, equity, access, and remedies for our healthcare system’s problems. We encourage employers, healthcare providers, and consumers to attend.

The presentation, **Remedies for a Broken Health Care System**, will take place Thursday, May 9th, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm, at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall, 3491 Mount Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. Q & A will follow.

Speakers for the event are: Jim Kahn, MD, a healthcare economist and professor at the Institute for Health Policy Studies, UCSF Medical School; and Laurel Lucia, the Health Care Program Director for the University of California Berkeley Labor Center and a consultant to the Healthy California for All Commission.

Registration is appreciated: tinyurl.com/HCAMay9.



The event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Diablo Valley; Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) - Bay Area; and Contra Costa/Solano California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) Action Team.

Voter Services Updates: Celebrating Democracy!

LWVDV is Registering Voters ...You Can Help!

- On April 30, Leaguers partnered with the County Office of Elections to do student voter registration at Antioch High School.
- On **May 11**, Leaguers Susan Johnson, Susan Requa, and Shawn Gilbert will be at **DVC for “Registration Rocks.”** Come join the fun! Contact voter.services@lwvdv.org



Summer Fun with Future Voters

The Contra Costa Library has invited LWVDV to participate again in its summer **Exploration Station program** for elementary students. Last year, Leaguers provided a voting experience for the young people that aligned with the Library’s environment theme. We had our friendly puppet friends (compliments of Martha Goralka), and the children loved them! This year’s theme is animals, perfect for our puppet friends to visit the children again. If this fun time sounds interesting to you, and you would like to help plan it and/or participate on any of the days in the following schedule, please contact voter.services@lwvdv.org. All times are 11 am - 1 pm:

- Oakley Library, Saturday, June 1
- Brentwood Library, Wednesday, June 12

- Pleasant Hill Library, Tuesday, June 18
- El Sobrante Library, Thursday, June 20

Always Learning!

I subscribe to **AllSides**, which offers current news articles from various news outlets and reveals the political leanings of each outlet.

Recently, **AllSides** released a new tool called **Similarity Hub**. In a nutshell, **Similarity Hub** asked Americans 200 questions on policy-related topics that could be considered provocative. Surprisingly, the answers revealed how much Americans are more united than divided. I found this information helpful in off-setting the constant news I hear about how divided we are as a country. I am sharing the [link](#) and hope you, too, will find it interesting and helpful.

Shawn Gilbert, Voter Services Co-Chair

Paid Elections Ambassador Training Opportunities

Are you passionate about democracy and want to share facts about how elections work? Apply for a paid training session, hosted by the Contra Costa County Elections Division, to learn first-hand about election processes and security.

Apply by May 14 at secure-election.org/ambassadors.

1. Elections Social Media Ambassador

Training: A virtual training opportunity for people who want to learn about how the county secures its elections and how to share fact-based election information on social media.

The training is open for people ages 16 and older who live in Contra Costa County. Participants will receive a \$50 stipend for completing the training.



2. Elections Community Ambassador

Training: An in-person training opportunity for people who want to learn about how the county secures its elections and share that information with their communities.

The training is open for people ages 18 and older who live in Contra Costa County. Participants will receive a \$150 stipend for completing the training.

These County programs are funded by a voter education grant.

The State of Local Journalism and Why We Should Care

Thursday, May 16, 2024, 4:00 - 5:30 pm



Local journalism, as many have known it, seems to have disappeared. The polarizing and often inaccurate cries of 'fake news' and rise of so-called 'news deserts' with no local news outlets have led to a public crisis of confidence in news reporting, intensified by recent changes in both local and national news sources.

Join us for our **Community Conversations webinar on May 16th**, where the presenters will dissect these challenges and offer practical hands-on solutions that people can use to be more news media literate, better informed about local issues, and motivate their civic engagement.

Professors and authors Mickey Huff and Nolan Higdon, from Diablo Valley College and Project Censored, will lead this discussion. Susan Hildreth, League of Women Voters Diablo Valley, will moderate.

[Register here.](#)

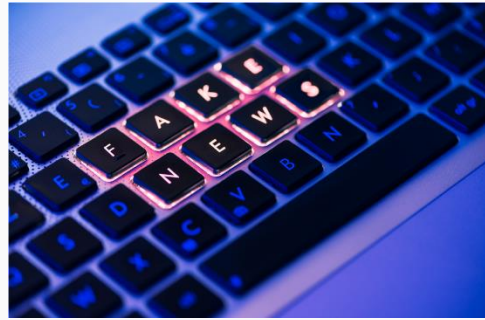
After registration, information on how to access the Zoom webinar will be sent to your email address 24 hours before the program. Audience questions will be collected and answered through the Zoom chat.

Community Conversations are co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, the League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa County, CCTV, and the Contra Costa County Library.

The Library will provide closed captioning and ASL for this event, and the Library and LWVDV are underwriting simultaneous Spanish translation. This program will be recorded and uploaded to the [Library](#) and [LWVDV YouTube](#) channels after the event.

Contact programs@lwvdv.org for more information.

**Can You Believe It? Maybe Not: A
Presentation on
Mis/Disinformation
June 4, 5:30 - 7 pm
Walnut Creek Library (in-person)**



Are you concerned about the risks of mis- and disinformation in our media? Or the potential impact of AI-generated images and video? Are you worried about the impact of mis- and disinformation on our culture, our communities, our election, and ultimately on our democracy?

If so, please join the League of Women Voters Diablo Valley for a presentation on Mis- and Disinformation -- how to spot it, how to stop it, and how to report it, with a special focus on the 2024 election. The presentation is open to all and will be held at the Walnut Creek Library's Oak Room on Tuesday, June 4, from 5:30-7:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Parking is available at the library.

Click [here](#) to register in advance. Drop-ins are also welcome.

Pay Dues or Donations Quickly with Zelle!

Tired of writing checks but not ready to pay by credit card (or PayPal)? We have a new payment option for you! If you use Zelle, you can now send your dues payment or donation directly to the League by using payment@lwvdv.org OR email payment@lwvdv.org with your name, email address, and the amount you wish to pay, and we will send you a request for payment through Zelle. This is a no-fee alternative to writing checks, and is more efficient.

Board Briefs for April 2024

At its meeting on April 11th, the Board took the following action:



- Approved a donation of \$500 to LWVC Education Fund to support VOTE411.
- Approved LWVDV delegates to the LWVUS Convention: Mary Schreiber, Janet Hoy, and Shawn Gilbert. Diane Bianchi or Anne Granlund will be the fourth delegate.

The Board also:

- Planned the Annual Meeting, to be held as a hybrid meeting on June 1st, 2024, from 10:00 am to noon.
- Discussed finalizing the contract with Contra Costa County Elections to distribute voter registration forms.
- Heard a report on research by Bill Speir on how the Brown Act affects attempts to maintain civility at local government meetings.

Membership Updates and Information

If you have a May membership anniversary, watch for your renewal reminder. We need you, so please renew!

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Sign up [online](#) or send a check to the address at the end of this Voter.

Membership is not based on the ability to pay. To request dues assistance, please email membership@lwvdv.org, or call the League office at (925) 283-2235 and request a callback from the Membership Chair. ***If you have been a League member for 50 years or more, you are a Life Member. Life Members do not pay dues. Contact Membership Chair Cathleen Kirk (membership@lwvdv.org) to upgrade your status!***

\$80 Individual Membership
\$120 Family Membership (2 members)
\$40 Additional Family Membership
\$10 Student Membership

(LWVDV is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues and donations to LWVDV are tax-deductible. Tax ID number supplied on request -- call the LWVDV office at 925-283-2235.)

Image credits: Meeting, LWVC; Fake news, Canva; Lunch, Bar Camino website; Healthcare, CDC on Unsplash; Voter Services, Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV; Ambassadors, Airam Dato on Unsplash; Newspaper vending, Zachary Keimig on Unsplash; Board Briefs, Vertical Response

CALENDAR
MONTHLY MEETINGS

Action-Advocacy meetings are on Zoom*. Board meetings are hybrid meetings at the LWVDV office or via Zoom. Luncheons are at Bar Camino in Walnut Creek.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, May 8, 11:30 am | Luncheon |
| Thursday, May 9, 10:00 am | Board Meeting (note change) |
| Saturday, May 18, 10:00 – noon | Action/Advocacy Committee |
| Wednesday, June 12, 11:30 am | Luncheon |
| Thursday, June 13, 10:30 am | Board Meeting |
| No June Meeting | Action/Advocacy Committee |

*To participate in a Zoom meeting, leave a message with your email address on our [email](#) or on the office phone (925-283-2235) and the meeting link will be sent to you.

LWVDV Board Members (through June):

[Anne Granlund](#), *President*

[Kathy Gallagher](#), *Vice President/Observer Corps*

[Karen Dolder](#), *Secretary, Office Manager*

[Paul Derksen](#), *Treasurer*

[Mary Schreiber](#), *Action/Advocacy Chair*

[Diane Bianchi](#), *Community Conversations Co-Chair*

[Cathleen Kirk](#), *Membership Chair*

[Shawn Gilbert](#), *Voter Service Co-Chair*

[Melanie Speir](#), *Civic Engagement Chair*

[Janet Hoy](#), *At Large Board Member*

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley Voter

Published monthly except July and December

Editor: Leslie Stewart

Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

LWV of Diablo Valley
500 St. Mary's Road
Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-2235
lwvdv@lwvdv.org