

Helena Area LWV ~ VOTER NEWS November 2024



We got together on Sunday, November 10, to enjoy each other's company and relax with League friends and colleagues. Starting left to right around the table: Gene Huntington, Patti Borneman, Cherri Jones, Julie Huntington, Wendy Wheeler, Gregg Wheeler, Sharon Haugen, Connie Griffith, Becky Piske, and Bob Jones. Sue Hoell joined the group earlier. Our thanks to Paul Pacini for lending us his photography skills.

Hello Patti,

Inside this issue of the **Helena Area LWV Voter News**, you will find:

- Calendar of Events
- LWV Statement on 2024 Election Results
- Montana LWV Upcoming Events
- How to Get Members-Only Website Access
- Local Government Committee Update & Observer Corps
- Health Care Committee Update
- Appreciation for Voter Registration Volunteers

- VOTE411.org
- Stories of Montana Suffragists
- Welcoming our new and renewing members!

Calendar of Events

(Please scroll down for details)

- **Wednesday, November 13 - Preparing for the 2025 Legislature** with Nancy Leifer on Zoom
- **Monday, November 18 - Monthly Membership Meeting** on Zoom (a repeat of the information presented on November 13 with Nancy Leifer)
- **Wednesday, November 20 - Braver Angels Workshop** on Zoom
- **Thursday, November 21 - Book & Discussion Group** with Diane Carlson Evans
- **Wednesday, December 11 - Helena Area LWV Holiday Luncheon**
- **Wednesday, December 11 - Preparing for the 2025 Legislature** with Nancy Leifer on Zoom (same content as November 13)

League of Women Voters Statement on 2024 Election Results

WASHINGTON — The League of Women Voters of the United States president Dianna Wynn and CEO Celina Stewart released the following statement on the 2024 election results:

“The 2024 election underscores the dedication of poll workers, election officials, and volunteers nationwide, who ensured that every eligible vote was counted, and every voice was heard. This year’s election was marked by integrity, transparency, and high turnout. The American people have spoken.

“While we celebrate a fair and secure election, the outcome of this election has made the future for women unclear.

“Given the disturbing rhetoric made during this election season, we are deeply concerned about challenges we may face, particularly regarding the issues that disproportionately affect women, from health care and reproductive rights to economic security and equal representation.

“We are thankful to Leagues across the country for their tremendous work supporting the election infrastructure and supporting voters, as well as every election worker and democracy defender who guaranteed our fair and free voting process. We are thankful for the work they have done so far this cycle and the counting, curing, and certifying work that will take place in the weeks ahead.

"The League is dedicated to our mission of defending democracy. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advocate for policies that uplift women and ensure equitable representation in all levels of government."

BOOK & DISCUSSION GROUP

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Join us for a very special Book & Discussion Group meeting with Diane Carlson Evans, author of *Healing Wounds: A Vietnam War Combat Nurse's 10-Year Fight to Win Women a Place of Honor in Washington, D.C.*

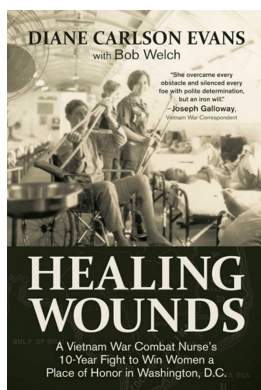
"Diane is a woman warrior who fights with love and courage of her convictions instead of bullets. Healing Wounds is exquisitely painful, heartbreakingly beautiful, and ultimately, triumphant." - Laura Palmer, author, *Shrapnel in the Heart*

[Read more about Healing Wounds](#)

If you don't have a copy of her book, you can find it at Helena's locally-owned Montana Book Company. Lewis & Clark Library card-holders can access both the audio and e-book version on [HooplaDigital.com](https://www.hoopladigital.com) and the book is also available for check-out.



On November 21, [click here to join Zoom discussion](#)



Healing Wounds: A Review

By Sue Hoell, Book & Discussion Group Co-chair

Diane Carlson Evans' story is about growing up on a Minnesota farm, graduating from nursing school in 1967, naively signing up to be a US military nurse during Vietnam, marrying a surgeon, and fighting to get a memorial in Washington D.C. that recognized women like her who went to Vietnam and came home to no recognition at all.

But that's just the framework of her story. Her real story is one of a young woman who came of age and made the effort to achieve a goal in spite of enormous obstacles. That's what many women do. We set a goal and do whatever it takes to achieve that goal. Diane's story is a page turner, not because of the specific details of her life, but because of her dogged determination to achieve a goal overcoming many discouraging setbacks.

The details of her story have another important aspect: that war is a male thing, and that many men are offended that women participate in this entrenched display of masculinity. Our nation has thousands of statues, monuments, and museums filled with art glorifying

male violence and destruction, and perhaps a handful of monuments honoring compassion and caring about other human beings. Correcting that blight on our culture is worth the massive effort that Diane Carlson Evans pursued on behalf of all decent humanitarian citizens.

Sue Hoell and Niki Whearty are co-chairs of the Book & Discussion Group (BDG) and welcome your ideas and suggestions for future selections. We read books, articles, and essays and watch films or TV programs. All members are welcome to attend the BDG meetings (mostly on Zoom) to share or to listen and learn. A reminder email will go out the day of the discussion.

Monthly Membership Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2024

5:30 pm via Zoom



Montana LWV President Nancy Leifer will join us on Zoom to update members on how to provide testimony and how to stay informed and engaged during the upcoming 2025 Legislative Session.

She will guide us through the use of an online application called **Outreach Circle** to send out Action Alerts. Detailed bill information will be posted on the Members-Only section of the LWV Montana website. At this meeting, we will make sure members know how to access this information and how to navigate the Montana State Legislature website.

If you're not registered for Members-Only Access, scroll down for step-by-step instructions. If you need help, send an email to lwv.helena@gmail.com.

We'll send a reminder about this meeting on Monday, November 18.

**ZOOM
LINK**



News from Nancy Leifer, State President

LWV Montana Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Prepare for the 2025 Legislature: How to get Action Alerts (same content as the December 11 session)

You must pre-register for this session [HERE](#). You will receive confirmation and reminder emails with the link from Zoom. If you don't see these emails, look in your spam.

LWV Montana will use an online application called **Outreach Circle** to send out Action Alerts during the 2025 Montana Legislative Session. We also intend to post detailed information on bills using the Members-Only access on the LWV Montana website. This training is to help League members who want to be active during the Legislature to download the app and become familiar with Outreach Circle and the Members-Only site.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Families and Politics - Braver Angels Workshop

Via Zoom - You must register in advance for the Zoom link. [CLICK HERE](#) to register. You will receive confirmation and reminder emails with the link from Zoom. If you don't see these emails, look in your spam.

Just in time for Thanksgiving, the Family and Politics Braver Angels workshop teaches participants how to preserve family bonds while staying true to their values and political beliefs. Although the focus is on family relationships, you can use these strategies with any loved one. You'll have some fun in this workshop – it won't be all serious. After all, we all come from quirky families.

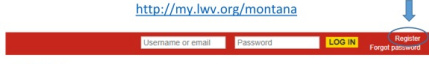
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7:00 pm

Prepare for the 2025 Legislature: How to get Action Alerts(same content as the November 13 session)

LWV Montana will use an online application called **Outreach Circle** to send out Action Alerts during the 2025 Montana Legislative Session. We also intend to post detailed information on bills using the Members-Only access on the LWV Montana website. This training is to help League members who want to be active during the Legislature to download the app and become familiar with Outreach Circle and the Members-Only site.

MEMBERS ONLY ACCESS – HOW TO GET MEMBERS-ONLY ACCESS ON OUR WEBSITE

<http://my.lwv.org/montana>



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTANA

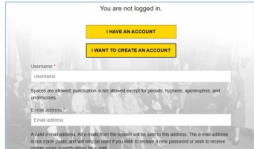
To create an account:

Visit <http://my.lwv.org/montana>

Click "Register" to access the Registration page (see above where it's located on the webpage).

Click button: **I WANT TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT**

- Create a username
- Enter your email address (twice to confirm)
- Create a password (twice to confirm)
- Enter your first and last Name
- Enter your mailing address (this helps us match you to your local league)
- Then find **Montana** on the list of League Membership and check the box.
- Confirm you're not a robot by clicking that box and submit by clicking **CREATE NEW ACCOUNT**.



Your registration will be pending until we verify your membership and move you into "active" status.

To expedite this process, please send an email to montanahw@gmail.com to let us know you've registered and check back within a day or two to see if you can log in.

Once activated, you will see **MEMBERS-ONLY** at the bottom of the navigation links on the left side of the website with a list of pages that only members can access (2025 Legislative Action, Observer Corps, Voter Resources, Civic Education, The Voter newsletters, etc.).

If you need help registering or accessing the pages, send an email to montanahw@gmail.com and we'll troubleshoot the issue and get it resolved.

**CLICK THE IMAGE TO
DOWNLOAD STEP-BY-STEP
INSTRUCTIONS ON
REGISTERING FOR MEMBERS-
ONLY ACCESS.**

MT LWV WEBSITE Members-Only Access

Our website (which we hope all members visit regularly and use as a resource) has a password-protected Members-Only section that contains resources and information restricted to our members. For that reason, you need to register to gain access and once verified as a member, will need to log in to see those pages.

Many of our members have already registered and have access to these pages. If you want to know more about 2025 Legislative Action you can take, Voter Resources, Civics Education, an archive of the *The Voter* newsletters, Observer Corps reports, and a calendar of Members-Only events and meetings, please register!

Local Government Committee



Since 2000, cities have been including citizens early in the budget process. The Local Government Committee completed research of several governments in other states to determine the methods being used to engage the public at the beginning of the annual budget process.

Citizen surveys and workshops developed by city staff are being conducted. A strategic plan serves as the source for the development of questions encompassing a wide range of issues from infrastructure improvements to housing, public safety and beyond.

The City of Helena has finalized its strategic plan and you can download it by clicking on the image. The committee plans to meet with the City of Helena Finance Director and the Citizens Council to determine how Helena citizens could provide early input into the budget process. The book, *Slow Democracy: Rediscovering Community, Bringing Decision Making Back Home*, by Susan Clark was used as a resource for the research into early citizen input in the budget process.

~ Mary (Mickey) Harlow and Sue Hoell, co-chairs,
Government Committee



Read the OBSERVER CORPS Reports

Members of the LWVHA Observer Corps are attending meetings and submitting reports that Mickey Harlow prepares for members to read on a bi-monthly schedule. The reports are archived on the [Observer Corps webpage](#) (you'll need Members-Only access).

Health Care Committee



The LWVHA Health Care Committee has been examining health care access and availability that is particularly relevant to Helena seniors to see which services are adequate, where help is needed, and if the LWVHA needs to take action to improve health care access and availability in Helena.

Since health care is regulated at the federal (and state) level and often funded at the federal (and state) level, the National LWV has a health care position on which we will rely if we decide to take action.

The Committee will continue to review access and availability of health care in Helena so long as committee members have an interest in doing so. The more members who are willing to do the research, the more information we will report, and the more action we can take if we identify weaknesses in the system.

If our members are willing to send information to the LWVHA Health Care Committee regarding their health care experiences in Helena, we will have a better grasp of the availability and quality of care in Helena.

[Read the current findings](#) on Health Services for Seniors in the Helena Area.

BY THE NUMBERS AND THE ISSUES

Montana has a higher percent of older people than most States. Baby-boomers are around 20% of the population. Women are 55% of seniors; men are 45%. Montana has roughly 212,000 seniors.

According to Pew Research, Health Care is the second most important issue among voters, after the economy. [Issues and the 2024 election, Pew Research Center](#)

The complex labyrinth of hospital bills, insurance disputes and out-of-pocket requirements that patients and doctors are forced to navigate put the U.S. second to last in administrative efficiency. [NBC News: U.S. health care ranks last compared to 9 other countries; Australia, U.K., Netherlands lead, report finds.](#)

APPRECIATION FOR OUR VOTER REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS

Kudos to the many voter registration volunteers for helping to register 1,000+ voters over this election year. You are amazing volunteers with great commitment to the League's good work.

The Civics Education team is close to finalizing the *Nitty Gritty of Voting* presentation encouraging young people to vote.

Please email Rebecca at rebeccainmt@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with voter registration or teaching presentations next year.

Have a wonderful holiday!

~ Rebecca Johnson, Chair, Voter Services

*Thank you for helping us exceed our goal this year!
We appreciate our Voter Registration Volunteers*

Dee Dee Cress
Cathy Duncan
Susan Epstein
Sher Ehret
Felomina Garvin
Janet Gates
Laura Gerlach
Marjean Heisler
Lynn Hinch
Mary Johnson

Cherri Jones
Robert Jones
Clare Kearns
Wendy Marsh
Tana Meeds
Becky Piske
Darien Scott
Michelle Thibodeau
Stephanie Wallace
Niki Whearty



By Patrice Anderson, Co-chair, VOTE411 Committee

The Vote411 committee successfully posted online Voter Guides for the May municipal election, the June primary, and the general election, providing voters with information straight from the candidates so voters can make informed choices.

In addition, we coordinated with members of the state-level Vote411 Committee, who were covering the statewide races. Deb Sargent, Tracy Donaldson, Ann Gilkey, Becky Piske, and Patrice Anderson worked diligently to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the information and to set up systems to make VOTE411.org an ongoing resource for candidates and voters.

Stories of Montana Suffragists

The first of what we hope will be a series of stories written by our League members on the suffragists of yesterday that inspire us today.

If you want to research or suggest a suffrage activist to feature here, send an email to Co-President Cherri Jones at lwv.helena@gmail.com or mail to the Helena League's PO box (see at bottom of this email).

Belle Fligelman Winestine

Researched and written by Cherri Jones

Belle Fligelman Winestine was a feisty Helenan who

graduated from the University of Wisconsin, became a journalist, and returned to her hometown, where she worked tirelessly for women's rights. She helped publish The Suffrage Daily News, in which the Montana Equal Suffrage Association "directly appealed to organized labor and educators for the cause of women's suffrage." (1)

When she began making speeches on Helena's street corners in 1914, her horrified mother "... warned me that if I made one more speech on the street I needn't come home. That night I slept in a hotel and charged it to my father. After that I was allowed to speak on street corners ..."

Winestine went to Washington, D.C. as one of Jeannette Rankin's secretaries and was "active in Jeannette Rankin's Good Government Clubs and their successor, the League of Women Voters. She was also a self-appointed lobbyist for various causes, ranging from women's right to serve on juries (won in 1939), to the ratification of the national child labor amendment ..." (2)



Belle Fligelman Winestine

About The Suffrage Daily News. Motto: "Governments Derive their Just Power from the Consent of the Governed." (Library of Congress):

"Through the pages of The Suffrage Daily News, published in Helena in 1914, the Montana Equal Suffrage Association directly appealed to organized labor and educators for the cause of women's suffrage. The group convinced legislators to place a suffrage amendment on the ballot and Montana voters narrowly passed the amendment on November 3, 1914, making Montana the twelfth state to grant women the vote." (3)

(1) [The Suffrage Daily News, Library of Congress](#)

(2) [Winestine-Belle-Fligelman-Mother-Was-Shocked.pdf](#)

More at <https://montanawomenshistory.org>

(3) [About The Suffrage Daily News](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Helena Area LWV

Holiday Luncheon Potluck

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral

511 N. Park Avenue, Helena

Undercroft (downstairs area)

More info to come.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE BY 12/31/24 FOR MOST MEMBERS

Members who joined or renewed prior to April 1, 2024 (the start of our fiscal year), need to renew by December 31, 2024. Reminder postcards were mailed in October to all members who need to pay their dues. **IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES, THANK YOU!** We value and appreciate each one of you!

TO PAY YOUR DUES BY CHECK, PLEASE SEND TO THE PO
ADDRESS BELOW OR [RENEW ONLINE HERE](#)

New and Renewing Members!

Welcome Beki Glyde Brandborg as a new member!

RENEWING MEMBERS

Rita Blouke
Mait Board
Jane Demaray
Ellen Feaver
Mary "Mickey" Harlow
Sharon Haugen
Julie Huntington

Bobbi Jasmin
Mary Johnson
Cherri & Bob Jones
Marie Kall
Janet Kelly
Kathy Kendall
Melinda Leas

Barbara Martin
Kathleen McNeill
Sherry Meador
Susan & Bruce Newell
Becky Piske & Paul Pacini
Debora Sargent
Darien Scott



2024-26 Board Members

Co-president: Sharon Haugen

Co-president: Cherri Jones

Treasurer: Connie Griffith

Secretary: Denise Pengeroth

At-Large Board Members:

Ann Gilkey

Mary "Mickey" Harlow

Lynn Hinch

Julie Huntington

Committee Chairs

Coming up in the December issue of the Helena Area LWV Voter News

- December 11 Holiday Luncheon
- Committee Reports
- Preparing for the 2025 Legislature

Book & Discussion Group: Sue Hoell & Niki Whearty
Communications: Patti Borneman & Becky Piske
Local Government: Mickey Harlow & Sue Hoell
Membership: Wendy Wheeler
Nominating: Sue Hoell
Publicity: Marga Lincoln
VOTE411: Patrice Anderson & Becky Piske
Voter Services: Rebecca Johnson
The Voter Editor: Patti Borneman

- Stories of Montana Suffragists
- And more!

[Read our statement about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.](#)



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League of Women Voters of the Helena Area | PO Box 6534 | Helena, MT 59604 US



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