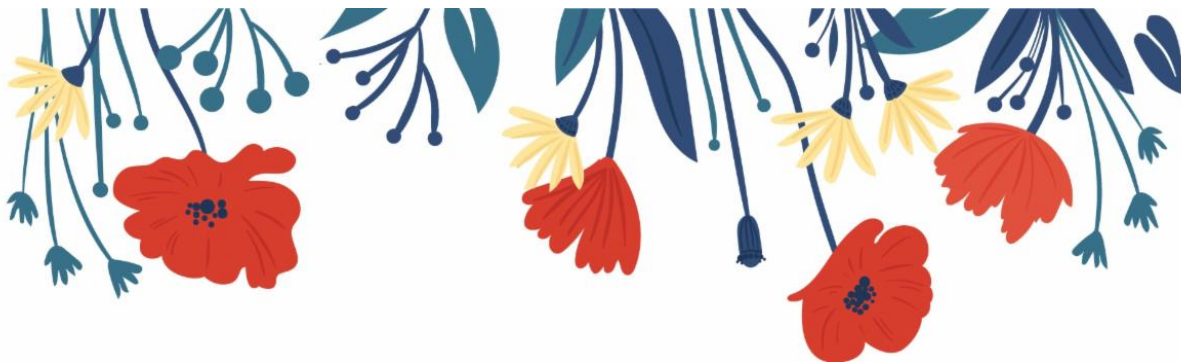


Helena Area LWV VOTER NEWS July 2024



Hello Patti,

We are pleased to bring you the July 2024 Helena Area LWV Voter News!

In this issue you will find:

- Calendar of Events
- July Member Meeting: Senior Health Care in Helena
- Book & Discussion Group: July and September
- June Member Meeting Recap: Respectful Conversations
- Kudos to Voter Registration and Civics Education Volunteers
- LWV Study Process Resources
- Coming up in the August LWVHA Voter News
- And, a warm welcome to our new members!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Monday, July 15**—4:30 pm. Monthly Member Meeting - Topic: Senior Health Care in the Helena Area. *See details below.*
- **Thursday, July 25**, 6:00 pm via Zoom. Book & Discussion Group
- **Saturday, July 27**, Noon, Stampede Parade. Walk along or ride in car or help register voters along the parade route. *Details to come.*
- **Saturday, August 3**, 5:30 pm, PRIDE Parade. Meet at Anchor Park at 5:30 pm. Parade starts at 6:00 pm.

- **No meeting in August**—Enjoy our Montana summer!
- **Monday, September 16**—6:15 pm. Special Membership Meeting with Nancy Leifer, Montana LWV President
- **Tuesday, September 17** - National Voter Registration Day. Mark your calendars for many events throughout this week.
- **Thursday, September 26**, 6:00 pm via Zoom. Book & Discussion Group

July Membership Meeting: Senior Health Care in the Helena Area

Monday, July 15, 4:30 - 6:00 pm - Lewis & Clark Library

Please join us at our monthly member meeting to learn about Senior Health Care in Helena. The in-person meeting will begin at 4:30 pm at Lewis & Clark Library.

The July membership meeting will focus on a topic important to all of us: the availability, accessibility, and affordability of health care--especially long-term care-- in the Helena area. We will learn about and discuss the specific services, challenges, and innovations currently available in Helena, with the help of three local health care professionals.

- **Sarah Sandau** is the Lewis and Clark County Community Health Promotion Division Administrator. She is part of a panel of local senior health care experts and will report on priorities and challenges identified by that group. She will be joined by **Jim Marks** from the Area IV Agency on Aging.
- **Destiny Boyd, RN** is the Director of the new Benefis Home Health Care agency and is passionate about senior health care in Helena.

There will be a brief question and answer session after the presentations.

Please plan to join us!



JOIN THE HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE!

The LWVHA Health Care Committee is chaired by Sue Hoell and currently includes Mary "Mickey" Harlow, Celeste Jazwinski, and Donna Aline.

The meeting this month is the first event for this committee. If you are interested in this topic, please consider joining the committee.

We plan to research and advance State and National Health Care Positions and engage in education and actions that serve our members' interests. We are open to new ideas and activities related to health care in our community.

Send an email to [Sue Hoell](#) if you are interested in joining this committee.

LWVHA BOOK & DISCUSSION GROUP

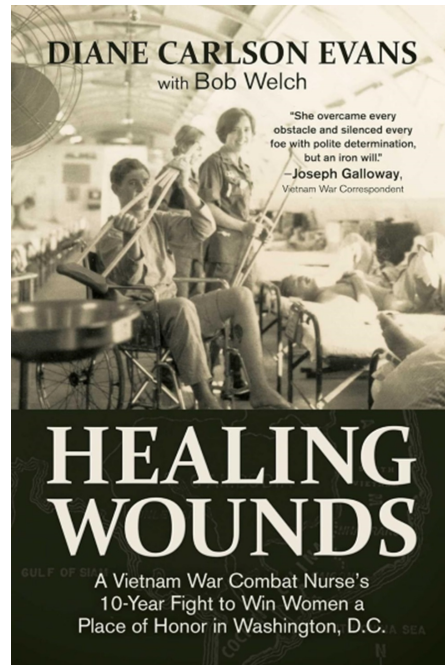


Thursday, July 25 6:00 pm via Zoom

"Deb Haaland Confronts the History of the Federal Agency She Leads," The New Yorker Magazine, moderated by Norma Tirrell.

As the first Native American Cabinet member, the Secretary of the Interior has made it part of her job to address the travesties of the past," by Casey Cep. *The New Yorker*, April 29, 2024.

If you are not a subscriber, send an email to lww.helena@gmail.com and we'll figure out the easiest way to get a copy of the article to you.



**Thursday, September 26
6:00 pm via Zoom**

Healing Wounds: A Vietnam War Combat Nurse's 10-Year Fight to Win Women a Place of Honor in Washington, D.C. by Helena author Diane Carlson Evans who has agreed to participate in our discussion.

Books are available for purchase at the Montana Book Company. Lewis & Clark Library cardholders can access both the audio and e-book version on HooplaDigital.com and the book is also available for check-out.

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. Members are welcome to attend the BDG meetings (mostly on Zoom) to share or to listen and learn.

We maintain a separate list of BDG members who receive reminders and the Zoom link. Please send an email to lwv.helena@gmail.com to be placed on the list.

June Meeting Recap: RESPECTFUL CONVERSATIONS



Recap by Wendy Wheeler, Chair, Membership Committee

About 20 spirited members and guests participated in the June 6 "Respectful Conversations" meeting sponsored by our Membership Committee. Small groups were presented with four scenarios and assigned roles for the "conversation." Two were tasked to "converse" and two to "observe." Each person had a chance to both converse and observe.

Before diving into the scenarios, facilitator Kathy McNeill discussed techniques for handling confrontational situations (*see below*). Committee members Wendy Wheeler and Tracy Donaldson demonstrated a disrespectful conversation on climate change, providing an opportunity to see and learn how the conversation could have been handled differently.

The four scenarios were designed to be touchy and generate strong feelings. Introductory statements to delineate conversational positions were provided. The four scenarios were Sending [Montana] Troops to the [Southern] Border, Reproductive Rights, [Tax] Levies, and Transgender Rights.

Techniques to Handle Confrontational Situations

Breathe: This lessens the stress reactions in your body. Gets oxygen to your brain so that you can react positively.

Check your emotions: Are you in a space that will allow you to react in a positive manner? If you are not, perhaps you should try talking to this person later.

Listen to understand not rebut: Where is the person coming from? What are their reasons for this position? Are they in a place (physically and emotionally) that they can have a respectful discussion?

Watch for the hooks and don't take the bait: Example: "All elections are crooked. Why would anybody be so stupid to vote!" If we react to the words, we just got hooked and won't respond respectfully.

Watch your tone of voice and body language.

Stay positive: Try not to nod or say, "Yes" (Gives the person the wrong communication clue and then if you disagree later, they will feel manipulated).

Respectfully ask questions: Try to understand the real reason/values that are important to this person and helped form their opinion. This may take more than one session to get to this point. If we show the person respect, we may get to the point where we can discuss the issue.

KUDOS TO VOTER REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS!

By Rebecca Johnson, State Voter Services Chair

June was another busy month for voter registration by our wonderful volunteers. DeeDee and Rebecca registered voters at the Head Start Picnic, the first time we have been invited to this event. Donna, Janice, Marjean, Janet, and Rebecca registered voters at our VR table at Clancy Days. Nancy, Clare, Cathy, Patti and Laura have been registering voters every Saturday at the Farmers Market.

Laura and Rebecca helped register CTI students to vote as well as taught students about voting. Felomina and Lynn continue to check the several VR drop boxes every week. Felomina is at the library every Sunday. Nicole and Becky helped several voters in the county jail complete their ballots so their vote counted in this Primary Election. DeeDee registered voters at Food Share and Clare, Nancy and Rebecca registered 38 voters at the Great Falls Naturalization Ceremony. Thank you, Janet, for highlighting VR forms, which is a big help for all the volunteers.



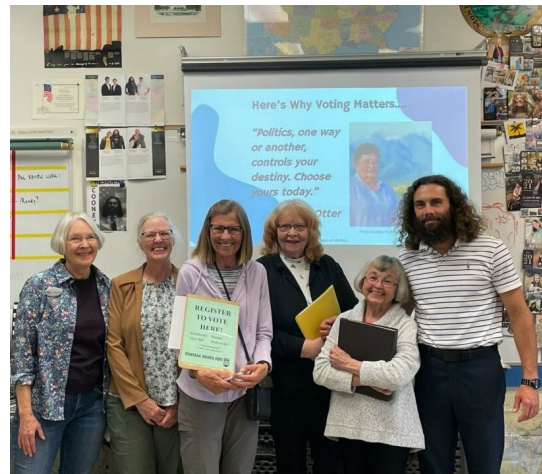
Donna Aline, Janet Gates and Marjean Heisler at Clancy Days



DeeDee Cress and Rebecca Johnson at the Head Start Picnic



Nancy Perry, Clare Kearns and Rebecca Johnson at the Great Falls Naturalization Ceremony



Cherri Jones, Rebecca Johnson, DeeDee Cress, Kathy McNeill, Darien Scott with Ryan Cooney

Thank you to all the VR volunteers who do amazing voter registration work. Voter registration is an incredible experience. You are doing very worthwhile work for our community and making new friends.

Please email Rebecca at rebeccainmt@gmail.com if you want to help register voters.

The League of Women Voters Study Process

Want to see what topics Leagues across the country have studied? Take a look at the [League of Women Voters Education Fund Clearinghouse webpage](#).

Studies do not always turn into positions (which we need in order to act on an issue), but provide insight about issues Leagues have considered essential to maintaining our democracy.

The LWV of Washington website has a list of excellent resources under the heading, [State League Study Process: From Inception to Position](#).

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

Julie Huntington

Committee Chairs

Book& Discussion Group: Sue

Hoell & Niki Whearty

Communications: Patti Borneman &

Becky Piske

Local Government Study: Mary

"Mickey" Harlow & Sue Hoell

Membership: Wendy Wheeler

Nominating: Lynn Hinch

Program: Darien Scott

Publicity: Marga Lincoln

VOTE411: Patrice Anderson &

Becky Piske

Voter Services: Rebecca Johnson

The Voter Editor: Patti Borneman

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

- Reports from Helena-area members who attended the 2024 LWV National Convention in late June.
- Details about the September 16th "Here We Go" member meeting. Please mark your calendar and invite a friend to attend.
- Opportunities to get involved in National Voter Registration Day on September 17th. The Helena Area LWV is planning a week-long focus on registering voters.

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Lois Olsen
Mary Ann George



**Visit our
Website**

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

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