LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS* OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / May 2022, Volume 94, Number 8

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 LWVMryCo 95th Annual Meeting via Zoom

Please join your fellow LWVMC members online for our Annual Members' meeting. As outlined in the "Call to Annual Meeting" (which you will receive in a separate mailing), we will approve: the proposed budget, slate of officers, and areas of emphasis for next fiscal year. This year we have an additional matter of business in ratifying proposed revisions to the bylaws—the revisions consist of streamlined language and in some cases streamlined procedures (also included in the packet sent by mail). Thanks to the Bylaws Committee for their fine work on this.

After we conclude League business, and welcome non-members into the meeting, we will hear a truly useful presentation by a Climate Change Communications Specialist (details below), followed by Q&A. She will share proven wisdom on how to talk about climate change to others, especially skeptics.

May Annual Meeting League Members Only

The meeting will be conducted over the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform, using **Zoom Chat** and/or hand signs, for voting, motions, speaking: 11:45 am Check-In, 12 noon Meeting Presentation starts ~ 12:30

All current LWVMryCo members will automatically be sent a link from BobEvans13@me.com on Monday, May 9th with instructions on how to join the meeting. May Presentation "Climate Change" Non-Members Welcome

Send requests to *LWVMryCo@gmail.com*. *Presentation starts* ~ 12:30 with Q&A session to follow, *ending* ~ 1:30pm

Non-members will be sent a link from LWVMryCo on Monday, May 9th with instructions on how to join the presentation. Non-members will be held in a "waiting room" until the presentation begins.



"Climate Change: Advocating for Action"

Recent reports from the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**, and many other sources, reinforce that the moment to accelerate action to address climate change is now. The first step in any collective response to a major threat is communication. **We need to be talking about climate change as easily and often as we talk about any other challenge we face.**



However, talking about climate can be hard. The underlying systems are complex and partisan politics has muddled the waters. Join us to hear from an innovator and expert discuss the latest research and thinking about how to be a strong effective voice in support of action to address the greatest challenge of our time. *(continued on page 2)*



Our presenter is **Ms. Sarah**-Mae Nelson, an educator, science communicator. and Climate Change Communication Specialist, who draws on her background and interest in interpretation in informal science education centers.

She has a Master's Degree in Climate Science and Policy from Scripps Institution

of Oceanography, UC San Diego and a BS in Marine Biology from UC Santa Cruz. Ms. Nelson is a member of the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation, the National Association for Interpretation, and the UN Education, Communication, and Outreach Stakeholders (ECOS) Community. She was recognized by President Obama in 2015 as a Champion of Change in Climate Education and Literacy.

> Submit questions in advance to **Tama Olver** (*tamaolver@gmail.com*)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY 2022

hank you for your support in making this such a successful year for the LWVMC.

A few of our achievements included: an impressive effort to monitor and participate in redistricting; success in turning COVID isolation into opportunity by hosting monthly online talks that reached broader audiences and helped recruit new members; monitoring and sometimes taking policy positions on numerous local issues, especially in the area of land use and natural resources; and, now, with the election season heating up, sponsorship of election forums both

on our own and in partnership with other civic groups.

My own role as LWVMC President has been to look on in awe and gratitude as my fellow League members served the residents of Monterey County dedication generosity, with and wisdom. LWVMC's Board Members are Jacks (and Jills)

of all trades and masters of many-they manage next year working to empower voters and defend



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 Marianne Gawain

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creativity and also cheerfully step up to myriad other tasks facing our organization.

Off-Board Members have also been pillars of our success, especially in communications, outreach, and poll work. If you read The Voter you know the names of many of our active members, yet for every person who has been publicly acknowledged there is another quietly contributing behind the scenes. Whichever group you are in, thank you!

I wish you a wonderful summer and look forward

to seeing you soon. We hope to return to in-person events, though better yet, hybridformat presentations would be the ideal way to ensure that everyone can participate. For my part, I am eagerly anticipating my summer adventures, knowing that none will be as rewarding as the time we will spend together

LWVMC NEW MEMBER PROFILE: **ELAINE GEHRMANN**

laine Gehrmann was inspired to join our League of Women Voters chapter while attending a recent Whites for Racial Equity meeting and hearing Sharon Miller talk about the important work the League does to promote equality for all.



Elaine has participated in many voterrelated activities over the years, including voter registration drives, Vote Forward campaigns and serving as a **poll worker**. Now she adds LWVMC membership to that list.

She and her husband, Axel, currently serve as **co-Ministers** of the **Unitarian** Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula. versa. I liked that because it was more about She recalls listening to some of the speakers at prevention."

our League luncheons, which were held in that church's building before the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly halted them.

Social justice has been a lifetime goal for Elaine. Born in **Pittsburgh**, **PA**, she earned her **BA** in Anthropology and Sociology from the University of Pittsburgh. Then she went on to earn her Master of Divinity degree from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley. That's where she

and Axel, who is originally from Germany, met.

recalls, "I was always interested in people and learning about how they find and make meaning in their *lives*," which led to her subsequent career choices.

"Axel and I served as co-ministers in two different congregations before moving here," she recalls. That includes five Z years in Watertown, NY, and five more in Champaign-Urbana, IL. "I was involved in a lot of social justice issues in the

community and that eventually inspired me to go to law school," she adds.

Elaine earned her law degree at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Axel then took on the full ministerial duties while Elaine began a new career. "For several years I did legal aid work at a non-profit that did civil law for people without funds and I

was also an Assistant Public Defender," she recalls. "Then, after lawyering, I got a job as the executive director of a nonprofit organization that was an intentional community of senior citizens paired with families adopting foster children. Seniors would help support the families and vice

After several years with that nonprofit, Elaine decided to go back into ministry work, so she served for a year as the



EREL

UU Minister in Decatur, IL. By that time, the Gehrmanns' two children, son Noah and daughter Sophia, were grown and had moved out on their own, so Elaine and Axel decided it was time for them to return to sharing one job. Consequently, in 2015, they moved to the Monterey Peninsula and became co-ministers at UUCMP.



civil rights museums and memorials. We did the US Civil Rights Trail from Selma to Montgomery, mainly driving, but walking a bit. We also visited the Emmett Till Ivnching sites and the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum."

(continued on next page)

May 2022

League of Women Voters of Monterey County http://lwvmryco.org



Now back home, Elaine remains active with the **Monterey County ACLU**, the **NAACP**, and **Whites for Racial Equity**. She also volunteers at the **Monterey Bay Aquarium**

and is a Docent at **Pt. Lobos**, and she feels enthusiastic about her new LWVMC membership.

With luck, that will soon include attending resumed League speaker lunches at UUCMP. Elaine says her fundamental goal for all the organizations to which she belongs is stressing diversity and inclusion. That's certainly a major goal for our League chapter, so this new membership promises to be an excellent fit. **Nancy Baker Jacobs**

ANDIDATE FORUMS: JUNE 2022 PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Before you fill out your mail-in ballot for the June 7 Primary Election, tune in to the online candidate forums to hear from the candidates themselves (see below for dates and times). **Registration is required**—go to the Calendar on *LWVMryCo.org* and register for a free ticket to the event (link will be in the confirmation email). When you register you may also submit questions for the candidates.

Monterey County Sheriff: Saturday, April 30, 3:30-5pm Candidates: Jeffrey James Hoyne, Joe Moses, Tina M. Nieto, Justin E. Patterson This forum is in collaboration with

the ACLU, Monterey College of Law, and the Carmel Valley Association.

California Assembly District 30: Wednesday, May 4, 7-8:30pm Candidates: Dawn Addis, Zoë G. Carter, John R. Drake, Vicki Nohrden, Jon Wizard

This forum will feature candidates running for the newly formed Coastal District which runs from southern Santa Cruz County to northern San Luis Obispo County.

Monterey County District 2 Supervisor: Saturday, May 7, 10-11:30am Candidates: Glenn Church, Kimbley Craig, Regina M. Gage, Grant Leonard, Adriana Melgoza Ramirez, Steve Snodgrass This forum is in collaboration with the Nonprofit Alliance of Monterey County.

Contact: Dennis Mar or Sharon Miller

PRIMARY ELECTION: JUNE 7, 2022 🎋

or the upcoming election, all California active registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot. Ballots to include candidates for: US Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Member of State Board of Equalization, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, US Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Assembly Member, as well as other local candidates.



Last day to register to vote online: May 23, 2022 County elections offices begin mailing ballots by: May 9, 2022 Vote centers open in all Voter's Choice Act counties: May 28, 2022



Deadline to return vote-by-mail ballots by mail postmarked on or before Election day, or in-person to a secure ballot drop box, or to a voting location, or to an elections office: June 7, 2022, 8pm View your ballot, find out where to vote, read our unbiased voter guide at: votersedge.org/ca

League of Women Voters California

lwvc.org/vote/elections/2022-06-07-000000

WHERE THE ACTION IS

The LWVMC continues to respectfully request that appropriate **Notices of Intent of Planned Use of Pesticides** be issued in a timely manner by the office of the County's Agricultural Commissioner. We made this request (see below letter) to the Agricultural Commissioner last fall, but have not received a response from that office.



Date: August 20, 2021

To: Mr. Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner, Monterey County

cc: Monterey County Board of Supervisors



Subject: Notice of Intent Online Prior to Use of Highly Toxic Pesticides

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County (LWVMC) has broad policies regarding land use, health, and access to information. In pursuit of these policies, LWVMC requests that appropriate Notices of Intent of Planned Use of Pesticides be issued in a timely manner by your office. LWVMC understands you have the authority to issue such Notices of Intent (NOI). To date such NOIs have not been issued for public access.

LWVMC understands the following, according to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's most recent data (https://trackingcalifornia.org/pesticides/pesticide-mapping-tool) and other sources:

a. Monterey County used over 6.8 million pounds of agricultural pesticides in 2018;

b. Of this, 2.2 million pounds (32%) were fumigants which significantly reduce the ability of farmlands to mitigate global warming because they destroy soil microbes essential to carbon drawdown;

c. State-listed cholinesterase inhibitors can damage developing brains;

d. State-listed neonicotinoids have negative impacts on bees and other pollinators;

e. Also used are other highly toxic and drift-prone pesticides classified as "Restricted Material";

f. Restricted Material pesticides are, according to the Department of Pesticide Regulation, "deemed to have a higher potential to cause harm to public health, farmworkers" and other living organisms and environments;

g. Exposure to Restricted Material pesticides can lead to health conditions such as cancer and respiratory ailments, including asthma, that leave people vulnerable to the complications of COVID-19;

h. Farmworkers are a vital part of California's food system and have been deemed "essential" amidst the COVID-19 pandemic;

i. Some Restricted Materials also have the potential to harm pets, wildlife, soils and aquatic resources;

(continued on next page)

i. Information on the application of Restricted Materials is legally required to be shared in advance with the local Agricultural Commissioner by way of Notices of Intent (NOIs); k. If Notices of Intent were posted online, concerned residents would have the option to know when a highly toxic pesticide was being applied nearby, providing the opportunity to take protective measures, such as shutting windows or keeping children and others at particular risk indoors; and

I. Posting Notices of Intent online would not require any action on the part of growers, nor place any restrictions on the way in which they farm.

The LWVMC urges you to issue appropriate and timely Notices of Intent online so that schools, interested individuals, and the public can be informed. This would be a responsible safety measure, consistent with your duty to protect the public. LWVMC acknowledges the County's reputation for innovation and leadership in providing healthy food produced by a skilled and dedicated workforce, and its commitment to environmental stewardship and combating climate change. It is consistent with these policies and practices that we are in strong support of the posting of Notices of Intent online by the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner in advance of applications.

Respectfully, Marianne Gawain, President



Online Voter Registration Training

Jeanne Turner of our Voter Service Committee arranged with Mary Kikuchi, Elections Program Manager, Monterey County Elections Department (right in photo) to provide a

special on-line Voter Registration Protocols Training for League members in late April.

This special 45-minute session was part of County Elections' annual training, but also an opportunity for us to stay up-to-date on changes in voter

regulations registration and resources in order to provide the best information and assistance to voters. It's another example of how much we and the Elections



Department value our mutual partnership.

If you missed this event, contact Ms Kikuchi (kikuchim@ co.monterey.ca.us) to ask if there are other voter registration training classes available.

Voter Registration in the Community

More voter registration activities are planned for this summer and fall. We hope to have enough volunteers to be at local schools and colleges, farmers' markets, the County Fair, and National

Voter Service Committee Meeting Monday, 2nd May, 3pm Discuss plans for working at polls, voter registration education, candidate forums. Contact: Sharon Miller or Pamela Stewart

Voter Registration Day.

Join us and be part of the actions that empower voters and defend democracy! Sharon Miller

The LWVMC will be sending the below recommendations for future redistricting to the agencies which our members monitored, in appreciation of the work they did. These recommendations will also be submitted to local media.



May 2022

he League of Women Voters of Monterey County has been observing and participating in redistricting and initial districting this last year. We commend the many people who served on commissions, submitted maps, and made their preferences known.



We would also like to commend the many jurisdictions that worked hard to run a fair, transparent, and inclusive process. These entities sought public participation, actively communicating with the public, including through clear websites; they engaged knowledgeable staff and consultants with the ability to convey complex laws and criteria-ranking requirements; and they completed the process on time. In short, they

handled a difficult balancing act well, especially considering the delays in the recent census.

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County would also like to make these recommendations to the county, cities, schools, and special districts when they redistrict after the 2030 census:

1. Strongly consider separate, independent commissions to make the decisions.

2. Select commissioners in a non-partisan manner to represent diverse communities of interest.

3. Exclude incumbency as a consideration in map-making.

4. Educate both commissions and the public on the legal framework for redistricting and the tools for map-making.

5. Minimize the number of deferred voters, i.e., those who will be unable to vote during an election cycle because of placement into a new district.

6. Provide a separate redistricting website, clearly-labeled and updated to include schedules for public input and contact information.

7. Offer hybrid (in person and virtual) meetings for maximum public participation.

8. Give public notice, including bilingual publicity, well in advance of each meeting.

Marianne Gawain, President

With thanks to the LWVMC Redistricting Committee 2021-22

Co-Chairs: Sharon Miller and Beverly Kreps

Committee Members: Howard Fosler, Marianne Gawain, Arlene Guest, Dennis Mar, Konny Murray, Juliet Oliver, Tama Olver, and George Riley LWVMC'S RECOMMENDATION ON
 DEL REY OAKS' MEASURE B:
 Opposition to Fort Ord Regional Trail & Greenway

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County recommends that Del Rey Oaks voters vote "no" on **Measure B**, which will be on the City of Del Rey Oaks' June ballot. This measure is against the **Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway** (FORTAG) **project** proposed through the City of Del Rey Oaks.

FORTAG will provide for alternative modes of transportation, greenways throughout the Monterey Peninsula, and significant ADA access to trails throughout the region. FORTAG was included in the transportation tax (Measure X) approved in 2016, which the League supported. *Measure B would seriously jeopardize funding for a regional project which will benefit Del Rey Oaks as well as the wider Monterey Peninsula.*

The portion of the project within Del Rey Oaks has been significantly altered in response to concerns voiced by its residents. The initiative opposes construction of a tunnel. The latest FORTAG revision calls for a wide, lighted underpass monitored by a security camera; the narrow tunnel has been eliminated. The project will significantly increase pedestrian safety by creating an underpass across Highway 218 and provide connectivity between the two halves of the City.

LWVCA Position Supports FORTAG

Our opposition to Measure B is based on the following League of Women Voters of California position on transportation, which supports alternative modes of transportation that reduce

JOIN THE VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

 ✓ Voter Registration Education
 ✓ Candidate Forums
 ✓ Pros & Cons
 ✓ Work at Polls
 A Few Hours = A Huge Difference Contact: Sharon Miller single occupant vehicles:

Transportation and land use planning should be integrated to promote reduced vehicle miles traveled through a jobs/housing balance and requirements that land use development facilitate use of transit and other alternatives to single occupant vehicles.

Planning for transportation should promote:
1. strategies to influence travel behavior, such as fees, taxes and tolls, combined with mitigation measures for low-income persons;
2. alternatives to single occupant vehicle travel, such as high occupancy vehicle lanes, expanded transit, car/van pools and bicycle lanes;

3. other strategies to improve traffic flow, such as flextime and telecommuting;

4. project evaluation processes which include early and informed public participation, analysis of alternative routes and modes, analysis of costs and benefits of each alternative, and consideration of consistency with regional and state transportation systems.

April Pro & Con Meeting on FORTAG

At last month's LWVMC general meeting we heard opinions for and against Measure B. If you missed it, **"Del Rey Oaks' FORTAG Trail: Wrong Turn or Path to the Future?"** is now available for viewing on our website (see opposite page).

Marianne Gawain

We need a few more good people to work in Voter Registration education and train young people to do so too. A little of your time can make a big difference to ensure that every voter and every vote counts! Contact: Carol Kaplan

What's WORTH SEEING at LWVMRYCO.ORG 🖈

General Meeting videos: https://my.lwv.org/california/monterey-county/luncheon-videos

(LWVMryCo's position on opposite page).



"Del Rey Oaks FORTAG Trail: Wrong Turn or Path to the Future?" (April 2022) Pros and Cons of Measure B which advocates stopping the proposed accessible recreation trail

"Managing Our Waste - From Trash to Treasure" (March 2022) Monterey County update on recycling single-use plastics, household composting, reusing materials, reducing landfill, generating energy.



"What's Ahead for Salinas Valley Groundwater Supplies?" (February 2022)

"Humbled: How California's Monterey Bay Escaped Industrial Ruin" (May 2021)





"Changing Values for

"Affordable Housing: Present & Future" (January 2022)

"Pesticides in Monterey County: What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You" (September 2021)



"What's Behind Climate Change Denial?" (November 2020)

CommunitySafety" (November 2021)



What's WORTH SEARCHING at LWVMRYCO.ORG



Find New District Maps for Monterey County MATTERS

The **CalMatters** (calmatters.org) app is now on our website: type in your address to see which of the 52 congressional, 80 state Assembly and 40 state Senate districts you have been in, and which districts you'll be voting in for the **June Primary** and **November General** elections. Find current representatives, and party registration information on both old and new districts. Under "Are you a Monterey County Voter?," click on "here."

On the CalMatters page, type your address in the box at the bottom of the page. https://calmatters.org/politics/2022/01/california-election-new-districts-lookup/ Bob Evans Website Coordinator

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO ATTEND LWVUS 55TH NATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 23 - 26, 2022



Denver, Colorado and Online

The LWVMC has budgeted funds to cover registration fees and help defray the expenses of in-person attendance at the **Biennial Convention**, **League of Women Voters of the United States**. This will be a hybrid event in Denver, Colorado and online. Those who have attended State and National

Conventions will attest that they are both inspiring and informative. Please let me know if you'd like to join our delegation. Marianne Gawain

For more about the Convention, go to:

www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/first-call-lwvus-55th-national-convention.



Join the League of Women Voters of **Monterey County**



Zip Code

FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP Students may join LWVMryCo via the website without paying membership fees.

New Members Wanted!

Any person age 16 or older may be a member of the League. Use the form below or contact: LWVMC Membership Director Monterey, CA 93942 Checks payable to LWVMC or

Mail to LWVMryCo PO Box 1995 online with credit card or PayPal

	Membership Levels
	\$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt
	\$200 Sojourner Truth
	\$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
	\$100 Susan B. Anthony
	\$ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
	\$ 65 Single membership
	(free) Student (16-24 years, enrolled in
	a diploma or degree program)
Name(s)	

Address

City

State

Phone

≫Florence Curlee Scholarships≪ are available to pay household or single membership fees. Contact: Janet Brennan, *LWVMryCo@gmail.com*

e-mail

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMrvCo are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund.

However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.



‰Welcome New Members!∞

Rosemary Wells & Tony Vastola

1314 Shafter Avenue, Pacific Grove 93950 (831) 521-6692 / rwells@post.harvard.edu

Thank You to Our **≫Generous Donor**≪

LWVMryCo General Fund Phil Smith / \$100

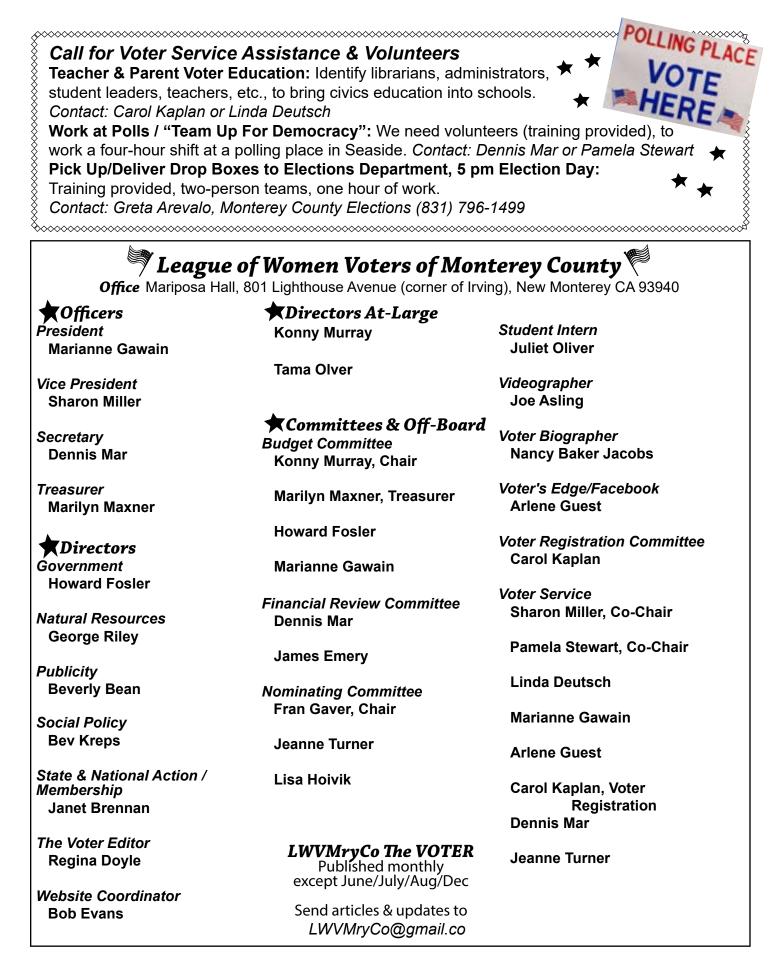
Send Updates to Janet Brennan LWVMryCo@gmail.com

LWVMC WEBSITE **COORDINATOR WANTED**

Update website calendar, post official letters (from the President), post videos of monthly General Meetings (from our Videographer), and monthly newsletter (from our Newsletter Editor). Two hours work a month. On-the-job guidance provided. **Bob Evans**, *LWVMryCo@gmail.com*

SALINAS VALLEY VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR NEEDED!

Our League is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We need stronger outreach to Salinas Valley voters to engage individuals, communities and policy makers in fostering justice and democracy. A part-time but crucial job: organize candidate/Pro & Con forums, encourage people to register, participate in elections, and vote! Mentoring provided. Contact: Bob Evans or Marianne Gawain, LWVMryCo@gmail.com



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



LWVMryCo Calendar 2022

*** MAY ***

X JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

NOTE: All meetings are held online via Zoom unless otherwise specified

LWVMC Board Meeting Monday, 2nd May, 11:30am Board Members will be sent link/instructions contact: Marianne Gawain

Voter Service Committee Meeting Monday, 2nd May, 3pm Members will be sent link/instructions contact: Sharon Miller / Pamela Stewart

LWVMC 95th Annual Meeting Wednesday, 11th May Members Only, 12 noon until conclusion of business Non-Members, admitted at start of presentation: "Climate Change: Advocating for Action" (details front page)

Natural Resources Committee Meeting Thursday, 19th May 12 noon contact: George Riley Summer Break: No General/Lunch & Learn Board Meetings, or Voter

JUNE

Primary Election Day Ballot deadline 8pm (see details & resources page 6)

55th LWVUS Convention of the US June 23-26 Denver Colorado/Online 2022 (see page 7 for details: financial assistance and how to attend)



FIND US ON FACEBOOK, SEND US YOUR POSTS

News items, thoughts, ideas, news, and reviews to: *ArleneGuest@gmail.com*

Jump from *LWVMryCo.org* to our page with one click on the Facebook logo.