



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

May 2021

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

Our May virtual gathering ...

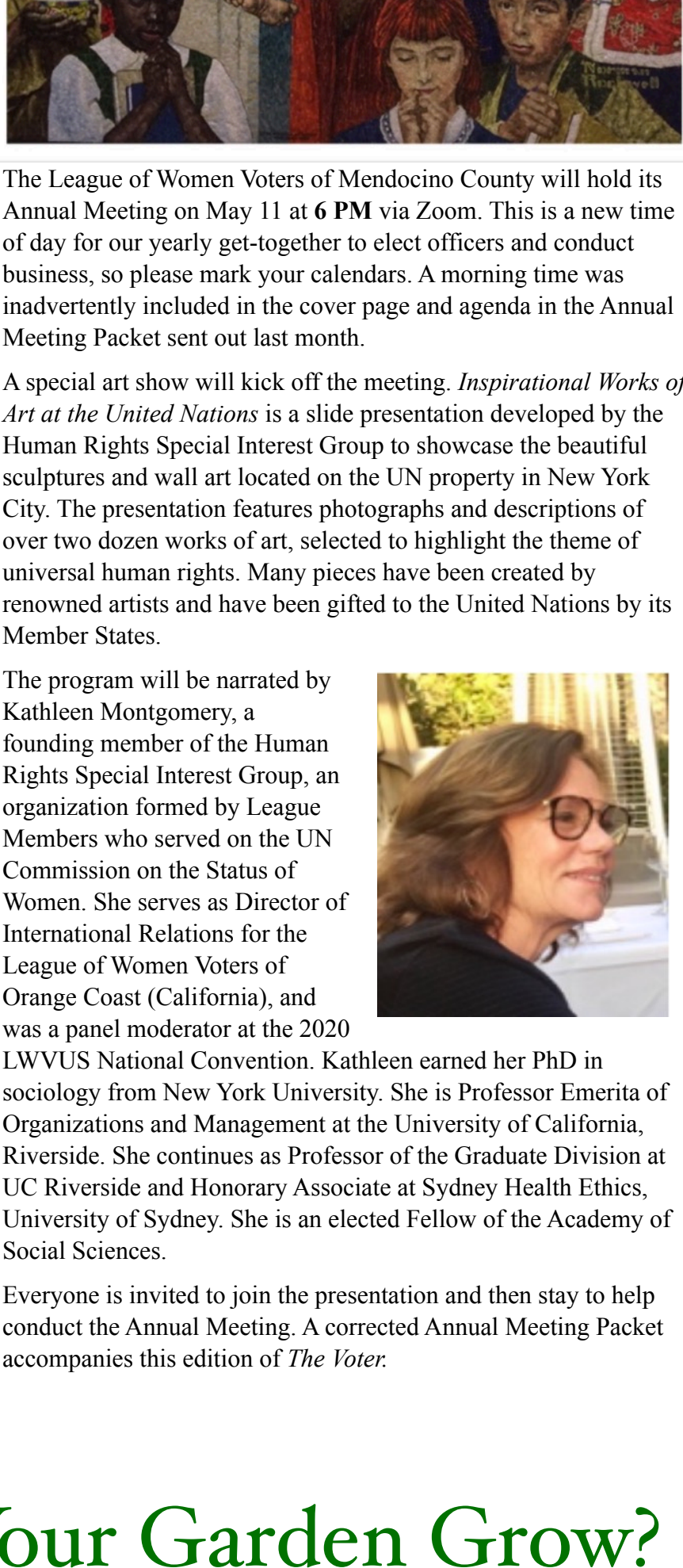
LWVMC Annual Meeting

Global Art and Local League Business

"Golden Rule" is a mosaic of Murano glass tile. It is a representation of the Norman Rockwell illustration by the same name that was featured on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post on April 1, 1961. It was gifted to the UN by the United States in 1985.

The text on the lower half of the mural reads "Do Unto Others as You Would Have Them Do Unto You."

Photo © J. Follows

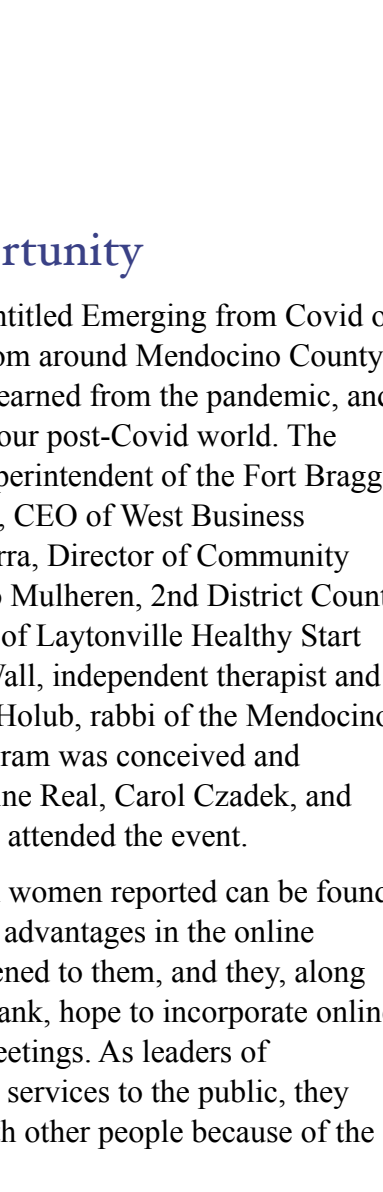


The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County will hold its Annual Meeting on May 11 at 6 PM via Zoom. This is a new time of day for our yearly get-together to elect officers and conduct business, so please mark your calendars. A morning time was inadvertently included in the cover page and agenda in the Annual Meeting Packet sent out last month.

A special art show will kick off the meeting. *Inspirational Works of Art at the United Nations* is a slide presentation developed by the Human Rights Special Interest Group to showcase the beautiful sculptures and wall art located on the UN property in New York City. The presentation features photographs and descriptions of over two dozen works of art, selected to highlight the theme of universal human rights. Many pieces have been created by renowned artists and have been gifted to the United Nations by its Member States.

The program will be narrated by Kathleen Montgomery, a founding member of the Human Rights Special Interest Group, an organization formed by League Members who served on the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She serves as Director of International Relations for the League of Women Voters of Orange Coast (California), and was a panel moderator at the 2020 LWVUS National Convention. Kathleen earned her PhD in sociology from New York University. She is Professor Emerita of Organizations and Management at the University of California, Riverside. She continues as Professor of the Graduate Division at UC Riverside and Honorary Associate at Sydney Health Ethics, University of Sydney. She is an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Everyone is invited to join the presentation and then stay to help conduct the Annual Meeting. A corrected Annual Meeting Packet accompanies this edition of *The Voter*.



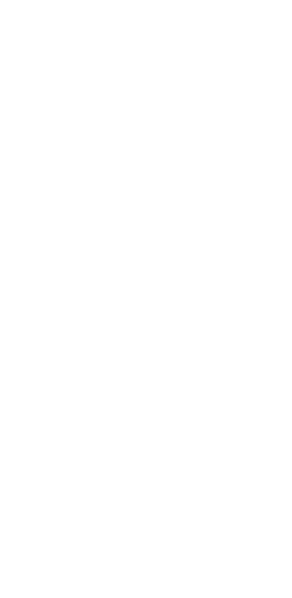
EVENING



MEETING

Tuesday, May 11th, at 6:00 PM on Zoom:

Click here for the link



President's message ...

How Does Your Garden Grow?

League presents an Interactive Garden Tour

by Nancy Kleiber

Over the past couple of years, as part of our focus on climate change, your local League has had several programs devoted to carbon sequestration, sustainable agriculture, and victory gardens. We are into it. May 18 is a chance for you to tell us about your garden — or vegetable patch, or favorite house plant. You can show off yours via smart phone, laptop, or just a few photos. Just tell us about your successes, or share your failures.

In the meantime, you can help sustain your League by buying a ticket to our annual fundraising garden tour at \$20.00 per ticket. Join us on May 18 at 10AM. We'll send you the zoom link. As a bonus, we are providing you with beautiful bookmarks produced by Becky Bowen, which commemorate the yellow rose pins worn by suffragists in the successful Tennessee campaign to ratify the 19th Amendment.

As Marcus Tullius Cicero said, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." During a year of stay-at-home, I've accumulated lots of books, and, fortunately, my garden is practically self-sustaining. After all, "weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them." (A.A.Milne) But, unlike Cicero, I also need (along with the books and the garden) unbiased, non-partisan information about my community, and a group that will nurture those seeds of knowledge into fruitful action. So I will support the LWVMC; I hope you will, too.

Please send a check to LWVMC, P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. Your Zoom Tour tickets are not tax deductible. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, make out a separate check to LWV Edu Fund—this fund maintained by the State League is for education purposes, but cannot be used for operating expenses.

Last month's meeting ...

Emerging from Covid

Varied Local Perspectives on Adaptation and Opportunity

The League held a zoom webinar entitled Emerging from Covid on April 13, featuring seven leaders from around Mendocino County. Their task was to report what they learned from the pandemic, and how this experience may influence our post-Covid world. The panel included Rebecca Walker, Superintendent of the Fort Bragg School District, Mary Anne Petrillo, CEO of West Business Development Center, Roseanne Ibarra, Director of Community Wellbeing at Adventist Health, Mo Mulharen, 2nd District County Supervisor, Jayma Spence, director of Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center, Cynthia Wall, independent therapist and workshop facilitator, and Margaret Holub, rabbi of the Mendocino Coast Jewish Community. The program was conceived and organized by League members Dorine Real, Carol Czadek, and Jane Person. A total of thirty people attended the event.

A common theme in what the seven women reported can be found in the word *hybrid*. Each one found advantages in the online technology which the pandemic opened to them, and they, along with League Co-President Cindy Plank, hope to incorporate online access into their future work and meetings. As leaders of organizations involved in providing services to the public, they also found new ways to connect with other people because of the Covid experience.

Becky's educators have discovered that, due to virtual classes, many students have thrived in ways they never had before, because they have been free from the negative social effects of school. She recognizes that the isolation of online learning has cost many students and families dearly, but looks forward to the fact that her schools can now safely welcome students back to class. Learning that wearing masks and practicing good hygiene can effectively prevent the spread of coronavirus has been a very positive development for educators. She hopes the State authorities provide the flexibility in their guidelines to allow hybrid education so the schools can meet the needs of all their students. Having learned much more about the importance of all the non-academic aspects of education, she is excited to have kids back in school again.

Mary Anne, like all the panelists, had to learn to switch from providing assistance in person to doing so in a virtual way. Before Covid her organization served an average of 300 clients per year, but in 2020 they responded to more than 750 requests for help. One big lesson she reported was not to take things for granted—Covid relief grants for small business became available on Christmas Eve, so she and her colleagues were able to begin right then and there. They had to learn to embrace change, to learn that trying new things can be beneficial. Like several others, she found that working virtually has brought her into contact with more and different people, and reduced her dependency on driving. Mary Anne encourages the public to check out the Center training library and upcoming events at westcenter.org.

For Roseanne, the past year has taught the benefits of being part of a larger system. The 3 Adventist hospitals in the county have been able to rely on each other in new ways in order to efficiently distribute supplies (PPE) and vaccines, for example. She has found that the pressure of the pandemic has spurred innovation, such as "Hospital at Home" services and "Conierge Care" for well-being health care follow-up. New ways to improve community wellbeing such as expanding the use of streets for dining and biking are now being explored, and are especially important to low income communities. The pandemic also facilitated action to promote equity and diversity by bringing Latinx groups together to present bilingual Covid information, and to establish the county's DEI Taskforce.

For Mo, Covid has reinforced the importance of communicating with all portions of the population, (even if the information itself is confusing). Having attended Board of Supervisors meetings since 2019, she is impressed that the Supes now can have well over 100 citizens in attendance via zoom, rather than just a few, as was typical before. She therefore hopes that hybrid meetings will allow virtual attendance to continue. Online meetings may help bridge the historical divide between the inland and coastal residents of the county. They have already helped improve communication among government, business, and service representatives that she has convened on Zoom, and will be crucial in preparing for future emergencies. She reported that the fires and the pandemic have fostered effective collaboration that will continue.

The Covid experience has intensified both the pain and the satisfaction which Jayma experiences in her work. She said that people in rural areas like Laytonville are used to having to fend for themselves in solving problems, and she is proud of the way in which her community has been able to use "creative license to adapt ourselves to what was demanded." In the process, her organization took responsibility in a new area, of attempting to address the food insecurity of seniors, as well as of younger families. The emergency brought out new perspectives which would never have been considered before, while people were wrapped up in their existing programs and statistics. While it is exhausting, she feels grateful to be in a position to be able to serve her community. For her, Zoom is the same—it drives her crazy, but she loves how much more can be accomplished by not having to drive all over.

Cynthia also has worked online much more over the past year. Life was much harder for her clients—stuck and crowded together, needing to get out, the grief of being separated from people loved ones, uncertainty about the future. She feels that doing are just waiting to bust out when the social prohibitions are lifted. A positive aspect in her work, which she hopes continues as we emerge, is that insurance now pays for virtual and telephone counseling services. She has a heightened awareness of how important hugs and friendly conversations are for people. In the case of a future lockdown, she has learned that open air walks, keeping a reflective journal, and maintaining a perspective of hope are better than binge watching television shows and waiting for closed services like gyms to open.

Margaret was surprised by what she learned from having to work in new ways. Being joined by other people from other places through Zoom affected her insular sense of just belonging to a coastal community, and opened her to new possibilities and questions. Instead of following the usual pattern of having one or two Passover events, her community was able to hold a succession of activities over the whole eight days. Not being able to have people come together at services prompted the idea of leading the Torah into her car and driving it around the area. She feels that she has learned to accept uncertainty now in a positive way—she is "more acquainted with not knowing than ever before," and feels that Covid has made her more aware of what access really means for people. Upon emergence, she hopes to be able to have hybrid activities in which group singing will be possible again.

The recording of the Zoom meeting requires registration and a passcode: 6+rvWtg0.

Like Jury Duty on Steroids

Government must be accountable to citizens

The Superior Court is currently accepting applications to serve on the Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury for the 2021-22 year. Unlike a criminal Grand Jury, the Civil Grand Jury does not indict people for crimes; rather, it is the body charged with citizen oversight of County and local government. The Grand Jury responds to citizen complaints as well as reviews all County departments, cities, and special districts on a regular basis. Service requires a substantial time commitment, but because of Covid-related innovations, the need to travel to Ukiah will be minimal. Rewards of service include learning about the workings of County government, meeting and working with people from different parts of the County (and potentially with different viewpoints), exercising and developing skills in research, project planning, and collaboration, and upholding the important democratic principle that government must be accountable to the people it serves.

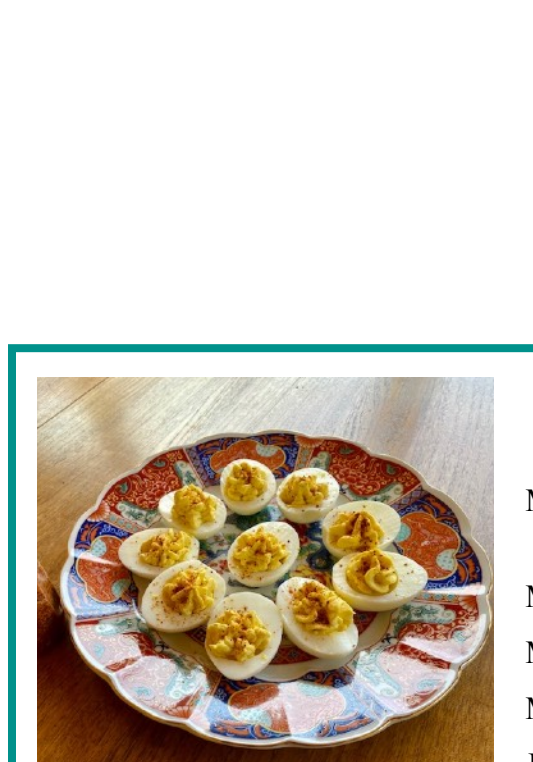
More information is in a [Mendocino Voice article](#) or the [State website](#). Applications are due by May 28 — get the form online .

LWVUS statement ...

Climate Recovery Resolution

We endorse a national commitment to protect the children

On April 22, Mendocino Co-President Cindy Plank posted the following on Facebook:



"Today, the 51st anniversary of Earth Day, The Children's Fundamental Rights and Climate Recovery Resolution will be reintroduced to Congress. This resolution acknowledges the disproportionate impact that climate change has on the health and opportunities of today's youth, and demands that the US develop a science-based recovery plan. Learn more about why we're joining Our Children's Trust (and 70 additional organizations) in endorsing this Resolution."

National League Updates

Statehood for Washington, D.C.

The League supports statehood for the District of Columbia. On April 23 national League CEO Virginia Kase commended the House for approving HR51, the Washington DC Admission Act.

"DC statehood is not a partisan issue but a civil rights issue which cannot be separated from the fight for racial justice. As DC is a jurisdiction with a majority population of Black and Brown people, continued efforts to block full representation is discrimination against the people who live, work, and pay taxes in the District. For decades, Congress has refused to vote on statehood, based on racist accusations that DC cannot govern itself. It is long past time that we dispel these racist and discriminatory excuses and deliver justice to the residents of our nation's capital." Read her full statement.

And here is another voice from a D.C. resident in favor.

Verdict in the George Floyd Murder Trial

The national office joined the Minnesota and Minneapolis Leagues in issuing a statement after the conviction of Derek Chauvin:

"Today, the police officer responsible for the murder of George Floyd was held accountable for his crime. "While the decision to convict George Floyd's murderer was just, it does not remedy the undeniable fact that policing in America is fundamentally broken. The United States' system of law enforcement, which was built on the legacy of slavery and racism, has stolen the lives of Black and brown Americans for centuries, almost completely unchecked. Making one man answer for his crimes does not equal justice. This conviction was an outlier in a system built on white supremacy. Accountability and the eradication of racially-motivated violence should be the norm, not an exception. Police officers must be held to the same level of accountability as everyone else. We must radically reimagine public safety in this country and prioritize investments in economic opportunities, education, healthcare, and other community-led solutions, instead of perpetuating police violence."

"Our thoughts are with the family of George Floyd. We hope that this decision provides a modicum of peace amid this tragedy. Today's decision must represent a turning point as we work towards true reform of policing in this country."

Redistricting

On April 29 the national League officially opened its campaign for **People Powered Fair Maps**, to push for fair reapportionment in redrawing congressional, state legislative, and local government districts. "We know that when the public is involved in redistricting, we create fairer maps that better represent our communities. Since redistricting occurs every ten years, this is a **once in a decade opportunity** to advocate on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors."

Two relevant essays published on the national website discuss "prison gerrymandering" and the situation in Wisconsin.

Online Opportunities

All League members are invited to apply for a training opportunity which the LWVUS is offering in partnership with **Lead4osity**. Participants of the program will receive complimentary access to a customized training portal that includes two self-led DEI training courses and a discussion board to interact with fellow participants. Applications are open through May 7. [Apply here](#).

The League is actively accepting applications for the LWVUS United Nations Observer Corps [see the article above on our Annual Meeting presentation!] If you're interested in being part of the League's international work, please complete the questionnaire application to introduce yourself to the selection committee. Applications will close on May 15 and are only open to LWV members. Individuals who are selected for interviews will be contacted directly. All applicants will be informed of the status of their application by June 30. [Find the application here](#).

League Leader Featured in Forbes Article

U.S. League President Deborah Ann Turner is included in a **Forbes Magazine article** about four older women raising their voices in support of voting rights:

California Updates

Convention

The Mendocino County League will send three delegates to the upcoming convention, but virtual attendance is open to all. This notice from Sacramento tells how to find out more:

REMINDER! Registration is now open for our LWV California Virtual Convention June 7-13

Did you know you can join us even if you are not a member? Did you know our plenary sessions are open to all via live stream? Join us and find out more about the League!

Sign up for a workshop, apply for a scholarship, nominate your favorite LWV for an award.

Only \$25 for non-voting participants, and caucuses are free for anyone to attend.

Find everything you need here: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/>

Register here: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/registration-21/>

Recall

Last week the petition for having an election to recall California Governor Newsom was approved. Earlier, State President Carol Moon Goldberg published a link explaining the process:

sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article250011419.html.

Redistricting

It's official, the 2020 Census shows that California will lose one seat in the House of Representatives for the next 10 years. The state Redistricting Commission has a [website for public input](#), as it begins the process of redrawing all the statewide maps. It's called drawmycacommunity.org, and it allows you to draw and tell what you think of as your community and why it should stay together. And, there's an interesting [Facebook thread](#) with nationwide posts about redistricting.

Universal Mail-In Balloting

Although advocates are pushing to have universal mail-in voting made permanent in California, state League President Carol Moon Goldberg cautioned recently, "While universal mailing of ballots is important to expand voter access, it is not without risks that may disproportionately impact underrepresented Californians and those to whom vote-by-mail is unfamiliar." KOED has done a [story](#) on the effort.

Local News

May is for Moderna

Covid vaccinations for coastal residents have been scheduled on a regular basis in May. This announcement is from the Mendocino Coast Clinics:

Mendocino Coast Clinics will be hosting a 40 person drive through Moderna Vaccine event at the Clinic, 205 South Street in Fort Bragg, each Friday in May from 5:30-7:30 PM: That's May 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th.

Call us at 964-1251 to schedule your May Is For Moderna vaccine appointment. Open to all, aged 18 and up. The first ten people to call and schedule an appointment for any of these events will receive a gift card to a local establishment.

Latino Coalition Scholarships

Voter readers who have been following the activities of the coastal Latino Coalition, or who have made donations for their scholarship fund, will be excited to learn that they plan to award eleven \$1,000 scholarships this spring. They hope that this assistance will lead to more diversity, equity, and inclusion in community affairs in the future.

Unity Against Hate Rally Led by AAPI

A coalition of numerous groups, including the League of Women Voters, is sponsoring a nationwide rally protesting hate against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) on May 15 at 11 AM (PDT). The event has been scheduled in six different California cities. Their website says, "We are inviting AAPI and all Americans, regardless of affiliation, community, race, ethnicity, or gender to come together for a National Rally throughout the U.S. on Saturday, May 15, 2021, at a single time coast to coast (2 PM EDT and 11 AM PDT). We will join our voices in speaking up against acts of hate on AAPI and all other communities. We will raise awareness of the verbal and physical violence perpetrated on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and together we will speak up, fight, prevail upon, and annihilate all Hate Crimes in the United States of America. We urge you to participate, attend, and support in solidarity for this National Rally — Unity Against Hate." Full information is on the Facebook page of [Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs](#).

Sheriff's Department Audit

Several groups who are interested in achieving better diversity, equity, and inclusion in the local community have raised questions about how the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department's budget is determined and approved. SCORE (South Coast Organizing for Radical Equity), with the support of SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) and the Jewish Community Justice group, has put together a request to the Mendocino Board of Supervisors for an objective, independent third-party audit of the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office and Public Protection budgets. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider the request on May 25.

Project to Improve Community Health

During her reflection about emerging from the pandemic, Adventist Health Community Wellbeing co-ordinator Roseanne Ibarra mentioned the hospital system's Blue Zones project. Places in the world where residents tend to have the longest lives have been identified as Blue Zones. Here is Adventist Health's announcement about its May planning events:

Adventist Health Mendocino Coast invites you to learn more about a potential Blue Zones Project in Mendocino County. Blue Zones Project is a community well-being initiative designed to unite our websites, grocery stores, restaurants, schools, city leaders, and residents toward one common goal: making healthy choices easier. On Monday, May 3 national speaker Nick Buetner, shared the history of Blue Zones and how the research on the world's longest-lived cultures is creating a blueprint for well-being across North America. Other opportunities to learn more and contribute your ideas and input are available from May 4—May 7. Visit go.lwvc.com/news/mendocinocounty to learn more and RSVP. All events are virtual.

Calendar

All these events are online.

May 4-7	Blue Zones Project intro and input
May 7, 14, 21, and 28	Coast Climes vaccinations
May 11 (Tuesday), 6 PM	Annual Members' Meeting
May 18 (Tuesday), 10 AM	LWVMC Virtual Garden Tour
June 7-13	LWVC Convention

LWV Mission Statement

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

Contact LWVMC

By mail: P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg CA 95437
 By email: voter@men.org
 Our website: lwv-mendo.org
 Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1>

Sturdy Links

If the link in the article doesn't work, try pasting the address into your browser. You may need to edit out spaces.

Grand Jury article: www.mendocino-county.ca.gov/operations/grandjury.html

Grand Jury application: www.mendocino-county.ca.gov/docs/GJApp.pdf

Emerging from Covid recording: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-jydcGimRte-77nJsw5V167ixv9BRe4CLq4F4X1j_B7xpZ2667zRm2U-rUBqRq.Nv9WFFsFs5y5JGM?passcode=6+rvWtg0

Climate resolution: <https://www.lwv.org/blog/celebrating-earth-day-fighting-our-childrens-health>

LWVUS on DC statehood: www.lwv.org/.../lwvc-commends-us-house-passage-de...

Blog on DC statehood: www.lwv.org/blog/west-must-grant-statehood-people-dc

Prison gerrymandering: www.lwv.org/blog/redistricting-watch-i-will-fight-fair-maps-because-im-against-prison-gerrymandering

Leadership: <https://www.nonprofitleadershipalliance.org/leadership/>

Training application: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=vu-kM53066ijX7ZkMRJGv7p5rleb5DncPKNSp5PURDM3TEK4TKlQjKQZdKTKFVTDEMTVXMS4u>

UN Observer Corps application: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6289732/2021-UN-Observer-Corps>

Article on LWVUS President: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/maggiemagrath/2021/04/15/terri-sewell-and-the-women-over-50-raising-their-voices-for-voting-rights/>

State convention information: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/>

State convention registration: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/registration-21/>

California redistricting public input: drawmycacommunity.org/

Facebook redistricting page: [facebook.com/hashtag/redistricting](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/redistricting)

Recall process: sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article250011419.html

Universal mail-in ballot: kdsl.org/news/11869522/touting-voter-turnout-vote-by-mail-advocates-seek-permanent-change-to-california-elections