

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PORTLAND AREA NOMINATING SLATE**  
**2024**

Those in red are up for election or reelection

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Officers: (4)**

**President: Peg Balano**, two-year term, 2024-2026

Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: Carol Carpenter, two-year term, 2023-2025

**Treasurer: Nora Charles**, two-year term, 2024-2026

**Elected Directors: (6)**

3 elected in even numbered years for a two-year term:

**Barbara Kaufman** (2024-2026)

**Elaine DiGiovanni** (2024-2026)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2024-2026)

3 elected in odd numbered years for a two-year term:

Cathie Crute (2023-2025)

Kim Matthews (2023-2025)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2023-2025)

**EMILY FARLEY FUND Advisory Committee**

Elected for a two-year term:

Barbara Kaufman (2023-2025)

**Valerie Kelly** (2024-2026)

**Jana Lapoint** (2024-2026)

**Alison Smith** (2024-2026)

Cathie Whittenburg (2023-2025)

**BIOS:** (in alphabetical order)

**LWVPA BOARD:**

**Peg Balano** joined the LWV in 2014 and currently serves as President of the LWV of the Portland Area and as Chair of the Council of Local Leaders (CLL). She is also a member of the LWVME Voter Engagement Committee. Peg retired from a career in Information Technology (IT), which she began as a programmer at Hannaford Bros. in Scarborough, ME and finished as Senior Project Manager at MaineGeneral Medical Center in Augusta, ME. Initially from Massachusetts, Peg moved to Maine in 1980 with her husband, Jeff, and loves to travel. Her lifelong goal is to visit each coast of every continent.

**Carol Carpenter** has served as Secretary and Membership Co-Chair of the LWV of the Portland Area for the past six years. For Carol, being on the LWVPA Board has been a good way to meet people and begin to understand the governmental landscape of Maine. In her spare time, Carol very much enjoys quilting and bicycling. She and her husband retired to Maine nine years ago to be closer to grandchildren and the ocean. They moved from upstate New York. There, Carol was a 5<sup>th</sup> grade special education teacher and worked with students within the typical classroom to meet their individual needs. She also taught sign language classes at Binghamton University. While in New York, she was a long-time member of the Broome-Tioga LWV.

**Nora Charles**, a very new member, retired to Maine in 2007 from St. Louis, expecting to eat lobster and to learn to sail. She had worked as an accountant for most of her career at several large corporations including Mallinckrodt Medical and General American Life Insurance. In a late-life career change she went to law school. She then practiced in the areas of consumer law and small business tax defense. Here, in between bridge games, she has served as the treasurer of the Maine Peace Fund for twelve years and treasurer of the Woodfords Club for four years. She looks forward to becoming a better-informed voter through her association with the League as well as meeting women of similar interests. And, although she has never learned to sail, she continues to be awed by the sea.

**Cathie Crute** is a retired Family Physician who had a practice in Portland for many years and has been retired for about 7 years. She became increasingly politically active during the 2016 election. Cathie has been following the efforts to develop universal healthcare, especially in Maine. She understands that an informed electorate and making certain that voters are registered are extremely important. This is why she is excited to be on the LWVPA Board. She lives in Portland and loves to do things outdoors, connecting to the environment. Cathie has lived in Portland for over 30 years, having grown up in the “sticks” of Long Island, NY.

**Elaine DiGiovanni** became a League member in 2013 and joined the LWVPA board the following year. She currently chairs the LWVPA Membership Committee and the Nominating Committee and serves on the Democracy Maine DEI Membership Committee. She is a retired ESL/English Asst. Professor from Community College of Philadelphia where she taught ESL for more than 20 years. She also trained graduate students in TESL, presented at TESOL International conferences, and is published in the “ELT Journal.” Elaine has tutored ESL students at Portland Adult Education. With her past experience, she is prepared to interact with immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from around the world, as she understands the cultural, economic, and political challenges they face.

**Barbara Kaufman** became a League member 12 years ago and is a past President and Co-President of the LWV of the Portland Area. At present, she is Co-chair of the Forum Committee and of the Book Committee. She has recently retired from a professional life in education. She has been a middle school teacher, a college career counselor, and an education consultant with KIDS Consortium. As a consultant, she helped school districts, teachers, students, state departments of education, and many other local and national non-profits to create and sustain academically rigorous civic engagement programs. Barbara previously served as a member of 2 statewide League study committees. She is now a grandmother, gardener, reader, and astrologer.

**Kim Matthews** was raised in a politically active family in the segregated South, and as a high school student, participated in attempts to integrate public accommodations through picketing and sit-ins. As a lawyer, she specialized in civil rights cases. Kim has also served on several boards, including the Maine Women’s

Lobby, the Civil Liberties Union of Maine, the Portland School Committee, and the Board of Environmental Protection. She has been a “voter protection” attorney on Election Day in Florida and Maine and registers voters often. Racial justice and voter protection are the issues she is most interested in working on for the foreseeable future. Kim has been a member of the LWVPA Board for three years and is chair of the Program Committee and a member of the Tabling Committee.

#### **EMILY FARLEY FUND ADVISORS:**

**Barbara Kaufman** (See above.)

**Valerie Kelly**, an agricultural economist, worked on agricultural policy issues in Africa from 1984 through 2017. Valerie’s League experience began in 2010; it has included being a member of the Portland board and participating in several League studies, both national and state. When not doing policy research or League studies, she can be found hiking Maine’s north woods or kayaking on Moosehead Lake.

**Jana Lapoint** currently serves as a member of the State Board of Education, Authorizer for Charter Schools of Maine and was recently appointed to the Board of Visitors for the University of Southern Maine. She also served 11 years on the Board of Community Colleges of Maine and two of those years as chair when they became the Community Colleges of Maine. She has been a member of the League since 1964, serving in every executive position.

**Alison Smith** has been a League member since the 1980’s, including a stint with the LWVME-PA board where she served with the legendary Emily Farley and other inspiring members. It was through the League that she first got involved with Clean Elections, collecting signatures in 1995 to put the original referendum on the ballot. Ever since then, she has worked on Clean Elections in either a volunteer or professional capacity and serves today on all the boards of Democracy Maine and on Money in Politics and Advocacy teams. Today, when the League’s mission is more important than ever, Alison is happy to see the growing strength of local Leagues and local leaders and applauds our top-notch and diverse staff that boosts our effectiveness and reach every day.

**Cathie Whittenburg** joined the League of Women Voters in 2009 and was a member of the LWVME board for ten years, including serving as Secretary. She is retired from a career in advocacy work for gun violence protection. Her last position was Communications Director for the national organization States United to Prevent Gun Violence. She served on the City of Portland Land Bank Commission for nine years. In retirement she is pursuing her interests in music and art and enjoying time with her wonderful grandchildren.

