

BIOS: (in alphabetical order)

LWVPA BOARD:

Peg Balano currently serves as President of the LWV of the Portland Area and as Chair of the Council of Local Leaders (CLL). She is a member of the LWVME Voter Engagement Committee. She coordinates League volunteers statewide to register new citizens to vote following their Naturalization ceremonies. Peg joined the League in 2014. She 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 four 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. She is also President of the Pine Point Quilters Chapter. Carol and her husband retired to Maine five years ago to be closer to grandchildren and the ocean. They moved from upstate New York. There, she was a 5th 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.

Elaine DiGiovanni became a League member in 2013 and joined the LWVPA board the following year. She currently chairs the LWVPA Membership Committee, co-chairs the Nominating Committee and serves on the DM Equity and Inclusion 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 challenges they face, both cultural and political.

Penelope Hamblin joined the board in 2020, and has been serving as interim vice-president since February. She is coordinating LWVPA's voter education campaign for the upcoming Charter Commission election. Penelope is an active member of the LWVME Advocacy Team, where she works on voting rights and election issues. Penelope is a semi-retired librarian who has pioneered programs in technology training, reader services, and social media. She lives in South Portland with her husband, Willis. For fun, she researches Maine history, visits old cemeteries, and plays old-time music on fiddle, banjo, and ukulele.

Abeir Ibrahim, a professional consultant and mediator, is a co-founder of Cross Cultural Community Services, which trains community members and organizations on US customs, norms and policies. In addition, she has worked for the City of Portland for 13 years. She supervises the HIRE Program and works helping General Assistance clients to secure long-term stable employment. Before working at General Assistance, Abeir worked at the City's Refugee Services program. She also served as a cultural broker with the State of Maine's Department of Health and Human Services Child Protection and Family Crisis Services. At present, she serves on the Department of Corrections Juvenile Justice Advisory Group and Minority Contact Committee. Abeir is originally from Sudan, but she has been in the US for over 20 years and in Maine since 2004.

Barbara Kaufman became a League member 10 years ago and is a past President and Co-President of the LWV of the Portland Area. Barbara 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 registered voters often. Racial justice and voter protection are the issues she is most interested in working on for the foreseeable future.

Jennifer Morris returned to her home state of Maine in 2014 after living in Colorado for 23 years. During those years, she lived in a solar powered mountain house or on her boat in the Bahamas between gigs as a physician assistant. In Colorado she volunteered in a Congressman's office, stumped for Obama, canvassed for Get Out the Vote and got the activist bug. Now retired, she lives in South Portland with her audio book narrator son Greg. In summers she often sails Casco Bay for days at a time with her cat Pearl.

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.

Colleen Tucker served on the board of the League of Women Voters of Maine from 2000 to 2017, the last several years as Secretary to the board. She was happy to play a part in the League's passage of positions favoring marriage equality and ranked choice voting. As an attorney, Colleen works full-time at the law firm of Drummond Woodsum and would be honored to continue to serve on the Emily Farley Fund Advisory Committee.

