



Celebrating 2018 and Welcoming 2019

Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

Date	Time	Details
Jan 7	9 – 11 am	LWVPA Board Meeting MCCE/LWVME offices @ 565 Congress St., Portland
Jan 24	5:30 – 7:30 pm	The “Can We?” Project Student Presentation Waynflete Student Center, 64 Emery Street
Feb 14	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Book discussion: <i>The Soul of America</i> Riverton Branch of Portland Public Library 1600 Forest Ave.
Apr 5-7		Save the weekend for the LWV Regional Leadership Conference Details to Follow
Apr 11	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Book discussion: <i>There There</i> Riverton Branch of Portland Public Library 1600 Forest Ave.

Additional information about LWVPA and LWVME activities is available on the
Maine LWV [website](#) calendar.

"CAN WE?" STUDENT EVENT AT WAYNFLETE

When: 5:30–7:30 January 24th **Where:** Waynflete Student Center, 64 Emery St.

The “Can We?” Project is an experiment in revitalizing democracy that engages young people in civic discourse and takes direct aim at bridging the deepest societal divides through dialogue and curiosity. Building on the school’s history of valuing diversity as a condition of excellence—including its particular commitment to Portland’s resettled refugee communities—the “Can We?”

Project recruited 29 high school students with diverse backgrounds, life experiences, and political viewpoints from six equally diverse public schools and Waynflete. A four-month multi-faceted program helped participants cultivate empathy, bridge differences through honest conversation, learn how to propose solutions to pressing and politically contentious issues in Maine, and, finally present their ideas to gubernatorial candidates last spring in an interactive forum.

Because of its success, past participants and adult program creators are now working to replicate the model in other parts of the country. You will hear from several students and adults who were directly involved and who are excited to present their work to the League of Women Voters.

DON'T FORGET THE FEBRUARY BOOK DISCUSSION

Our February discussion will be about *The Soul of America*, which has been widely discussed in the media via author interviews ([CNN](#) and [Comedy Central](#), for example). The author, John Meacham, is one of our most prominent presidential historians (biographies of Jefferson, Jackson, FDR, Wilson, and H.W. Bush). He was interviewed by [Judy Woodruff](#) about a variety of issues concerning presidential history, including the role of the press, which is a topic covered extensively in *Soul of America*. For those who don't have time to read through the entire book, listening to these interviews will be great preparation for joining the February 14th book discussion at the Riverton Branch of the Portland Public Library (6:30 - 7:30 pm).

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The planning committee for this popular conference is busy working on logistics and programming. Members are advised to save the weekend of April 5th-7th for this annual event, which brings together members from MA, NH,

VT, RI, CN, and ME to share past experiences and future plans. One item that is sure to be on the agenda is celebrating LWV's 100th anniversary in 2020.

RECAP: NOVEMBER 14TH WHINE & WINE EVENT



LWVPA members and friends enjoyed a lively discussion on November 14th at our 3rd bi-annual post-election Whine and Wine event held this year at PelotonLabs. The panelists, Marpheen Chann (Democrat), Barbara Harvey (Republican), and Dick Woodbury (Independent), shared their views on how the

recent elections are likely to affect the next session of the Maine State Legislature. They addressed questions from the audience on topics such as civility in political discussions, the potential for expansion of ranked choice voting to the election of state officials, legislative priorities for their parties, the role of citizen initiatives in the legislative process, automatic voter registration, and ways of achieving more gender balance among elected representatives. It was a delight to hear the panelists offer thoughtful answers to the audience's questions in an atmosphere where all views were respected and differences among the panelists were discussed in a civil manner.



Photo: Panelists above and participants at left

CELEBRATING 2018 AND WELCOMING 2019



Celebration

We're taking a moment to celebrate our events this past year (see below) and to wish all LWVPA members a wonderful holiday season, and a healthy and happy 2019.

Photos from December 5th Holiday

Jan – Citizens United Anniversary Film and Discussion

Feb – Keys to the Capital & Evicted book discussion

March – Shauna Shames on The Great (Political) Divide: Why Women Millennials are Underrepresented in Politics & Scarborough High Respectful Communications Training

April – New England Regional LWV Conference

May – LWVPA Annual meeting & Primary Study Consensus meetings

Sept – National Voter Reg Day (plus all other voter reg work) & Cumberland DA Forum

Nov – Whine & Wine

Dec – Holiday Cheer get-together.



VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE

Year-to-date, LWVME has registered 1845 voters at the following events:

- 25 Naturalization Ceremonies registering 471 new voters, or 57% of the new citizens
- 121 community events registering 1374 voters.

As part of the work of the LWVME's Board, a new Voter Engagement Project Team has been formed to look at how best to improve our voter registration efforts statewide. We have members from each of the local Maine Leagues participating. If you have thoughts or suggestions on how to increase voter registration and Get Out the Vote efforts, please contact Peg Balano at volunteer@lwwme.org.

ENHANCE YOUR LEAGUE EXPERIENCE

Thanks to all our volunteers for helping with our various programs, but there are still some needs to fill. We mentor and coach all volunteers!

- Coordinate and manage Voter Registration Drives that are not USCIS Naturalization Ceremonies.
- Organizing events and programs with others.
- Helpers on a brochure committee and other marketing messages.

Contact [Barbara Kaufman](#) or [Peg Balano](#) if you can lend a hand.