



**SO MANY LEAGUE ACTIVITIES TO CHOSE
FROM THIS WINTER!**

Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

Date	Time	Details
Jan 17	4-5 pm	Democracy Partnership Policy Brief Webinar – 2019 Legislative Priorities More info and sign up here .
Jan 19	11 am – 2 pm	The Women’s March – Year Three! Meet at Congress Square Park & walk to City Hall
Jan 24	5:30 – 7:30 pm	The “Can We?” Project Student Presentation (details below) Waynflete Student Center, 64 Emery Street (between Danforth and Spring on Emery) Parking available in school lots and on nearby streets.
Feb 14	9 am	Democracy Partnership Advocacy Day State House, Augusta More info and sign up here .
Feb 14	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Book discussion: The Soul of America Riverton Branch of Portland Public Library 1600 Forest Ave. Plenty of parking available in library lot.
Apr 5-7		Save the date for the LWV Regional Leadership Conference Wells, Maine
Apr 11	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Book discussion: There There 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.

(Waynflete parking lots available behind 360 Spring Street and off Storer St. near the Performing Arts Center)

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.

JOIN US FOR THE THIRD PORTLAND WOMEN'S MARCH

The Women's March sister event is being held in Portland on January 19th from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The march will start at Congress Square

Park and travel to City Hall where League members will be tabling to register new voters and there will be a variety of speakers.

TIME TO GET A COPY OF THE SOUL OF AMERICA 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); and he gave the first eulogy at the recent George H.W. Bush funeral. 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). Plenty of off-street parking is available.

The library asks that those planning to attend call 797-2915 to sign-up so they can be sure to allow enough space for everyone. Also, if the library is closed on the 14th due to bad weather, the “snow” date will be the following Thursday.

DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Join the Democracy Partnership webinar at 4 pm on January 17th if you want to learn about LWVME and MCCE legislative priorities for 2019. Advance registration advised and can be done [here](#).

If you have missed past webinars, they are available [here](#) for viewing when you have time.

For a full day of learning, sharing, and lobbying, join the Democracy Partnership for an Advocacy Day on February 14th, which is not only Valentine's Day but also the 99th anniversary for LWVME. Register for this event [here](#).

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE NEXT REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Dates are set for the weekend of April 5th – 7th. The conference theme is Advancing Civility in a Diverse New England. The conference committee is still firming up the speakers list for discussions of the different types of diversity in New England, how that is reflected in the electorate, and what we can do to ensure that the electorate is representative of the population.

Maine will host the regional event once again, with hotel accommodations available at the Hampton Inn in Wells and the conference room about one mile away at York County Community College.

This annual event brings together members from ME, NH, VT, MA, RI and CT to share past experiences and future plans. Specifics on registering for the conference and making hotel reservations will be available in the February newsletter.

VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE

- Once again, we applied for and were accepted for a \$1,000 grant from The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). This year's grant is for the 2019 Youth Voter Registration Project, which aims to engage high school, community college and vocational school students in the electoral process. Status information will come at a later date.

- NOTE: As a result of the 2018 election, the Libertarian Party did not receive enough votes to keep their designation of a 'qualifying party'. This means that anyone currently registered as a member of the Libertarian Party will be changed by the Secretary of State's office to an 'Unenrolled' Party Affiliation. It also means that the Green Voter Registration cards that we use to register new voters have changed – the new cards issued by the SOS's office will no longer have Libertarian listed as a Party Affiliation. If you have any Green Voter Registration cards that list Libertarian in the upper right hand corner, **please destroy those cards**. New cards will be available at the MCCE/LWVME Portland office in the next few weeks, or go online to the SOS's office to order.
- YTD 2018 voter registrations.
 - League volunteers attended 25 Naturalization ceremonies and registered 56% of the new citizens to vote.
 - At naturalization ceremonies and voter registration drives, we registered 1,880 new voters throughout the year.

If you have thoughts or suggestions on how to increase voter registration and Get Out the Vote efforts, please contact Peg Balano at volunteer@lwvme.org.

NEW WAYS TO 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.

Also, our civic education program for 7th graders is looking for volunteers to help deliver the civic presentations that have been developed this past year. The curriculum is designed to motivate young people to be change makers. It uses stories of Maine youth who rose up

to address problems in their communities and became well known around the state and the country. The goal of the curriculum is to inspire a new generation of leaders, regardless of their age. If you like working with middle-schoolers, this is a great opportunity. We would also like suggestions for schools that might want to participate. For more information about the program and how you can get involved, please reach out to Lado Lodoka at lado@mainecleanelections.org

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



Lots of good conversations at our Holiday Cheer gathering in December to welcome new members. The following 62 individuals joined the LWVPA or renewed their membership from September 1st through December 31st 2018.

Peg & Jeff Balano, Julianne Baroody, Beth Basham, Chelsea Berry, Marsha Bingler, Amy Boyce, Sue Cabot, Janice Carpenter, Kitty Chadbourne, Carina Cilluffo, Ali Cleveland, Olivia Crupi, Maria Cushing, Margot Daigle, Allyson Dean, Elaine Digiovanni, Len Freeman, Karen Gersen, Laine Giambalvo, Domna Giatas, Ann Googin, Joanne Hachey, Jeanne Handy, Lori Hodgson, Elizabeth Huntley, Jackie Jacobson, Barbara & David Kaufman, Paul Knight, Geraldine Levis, Dena Libner, Lado Lodoka, Susan Loguidice, Kim Matthews, Anna Melbin, Marna Miller, Nadya Mullen, Karlene Osborne, Margaret Pierce, Pam Plumb, Sarah Rawlings, Susanne Robins, Marvin & Joy Rubin, Leslie Runser, Sarah Russlee,

Joan Saxe, Anne Schink, Moira Simonds & Mark Nordenson, Ruth Skoglund, Alison Smith, Regan St. Pierre, Aubrey Strause, Louise Sullivan, Sara & Joseph Tufo, Kathleen Walsh, Jim Ward, Judith Whiting and Bethany Woodworth.

Thank you all for your interest and support of the League. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events.

[Join Us!](#) If you are not already a member of the League, we need your help now to carry out our mission and to strengthen our democracy.

[Please join us.](#)