



SPRING INTO SPRING – ATTEND AN LWVPA EVENT!

Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

Mar 28	5:30 – 7:30 pm	The “Can We?” Project Student Presentation Postponed from January 24 th due to icy conditions In the Green Room at the Performing Arts Center at Waynflete School on Storer Street (between Danforth and Spring Streets)
Apr 8	9–11 am	LWVPA Board Meeting LWVME/MCCE offices @ 565 Congress St., Portland
Apr 6–7	Sat: 9–4:30 Sun: 9–2	New England States Leadership Development Conference York County Community College (YCCC) 112 College Drive, Wells, ME
Apr 11	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Book discussion: There There Riverton Branch of Portland Public Library 1600 Forest Ave. Plenty of parking available in library lot.
May 9	5:30 – 8:00 pm	LWVPA Annual Meeting Mason Motz Facility, 190 Middle Road in Falmouth

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

Waynflete Reminder

The League of Women Voters of the Portland Area and Waynflete School invite you to the rescheduled CAN WE? Project Meeting on Thursday, MARCH 28th, ***in the Green Room at the [Performing Arts Center](#) at Waynflete School on Storer Street*** (between Danforth and Spring Streets).

Please help us estimate attendance with an RSVP to Polly Ward <polly.ward@gmail.com>

APRIL BOOK DISCUSSION *THERE THERE* BY TOMMY ORANGE

Our April discussion will be about *There There*, declared "one of the best books of the year" by the New York Times, the Washington Post, NPR, the Oprah Magazine, and many, many, others. A few of the accolades offered in reviews should encourage you to rush out and get your copy so you are ready for the book discussion on April 11th at the Riverton Branch of the Portland Public Library (6:30 – 7:30 pm).

- *There There* is the “brilliant, propulsive” (*People Magazine*) story of twelve unforgettable characters, Urban Indians living in Oakland, California, who converge and collide on one fateful day.
- It’s “the year’s most galvanizing debut novel” (*Entertainment Weekly*).
- *There There* is a wondrous and shattering portrait of an America few of us have ever seen. It’s “masterful...white-hot...devastating” (*The Washington Post*) at the same time as it is fierce, funny, suspenseful, thoroughly modern, and impossible to put down. Here is a voice we have never heard—a voice full of poetry and rage, exploding onto the page with urgency and force.

Plenty of off-street parking is available. If **planning to attend**, **please call 797-2915 to sign-up** so the library can be sure to allow enough space for everyone.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE NEW ENGLAND STATES LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Dates are set for the weekend of April 5th – 7th. The conference theme is **Advancing Civility in a Diverse New England**. It will be six states again this year: CT, MA, ME, NH, RI and VT. Maine will host the regional event, with hotel accommodations available at the Hampton Inn in Wells. The conference room is about one mile away

at York County Community College. A full agenda, registration, and hotel information is available [here](#). Please register and reserve your hotel rooms soon. Highlights for Saturday include:

- The keynote address by [Nancy Thomas, Director of Institute for Democracy and Higher Education, Tufts University](#). She will discuss what populations did not vote in the 2016 elections. Who are they? Why didn't they vote? What would motivate them to vote? What are the tangible and psychological barriers to voting? What was different in 2018?
- [Susan Clark, author of *Slow Democracy: Rediscovering Community, Bringing Decision Making Back home*](#), will conduct a Workshop on Communicating Across the Divide: Challenges and Tools.
- A panel of experts and participant breakout sessions will then explore the question: What does diversity look like in New England? The panelists will stimulate our thinking about determinants of diversity such as economic inequality, rural/urban differences, and education or literacy levels -- factors that often combine with the more commonly discussed issues of gender, race, ethnicity, and generational differences, resulting in a complex set of diversity factors that need to be considered when developing inclusive policies.

Sunday has a "League Action" focus aimed at applying lessons from Saturday to our local and state League activities. Then we turn to 2020 and a discussion of celebrating the League's 100th anniversary.

If you are planning to attend and have a non-member friend you would like to bring along, we have a limited number of 'no registration fee' **scholarships available**, thanks to LWVPA's Education Fund, aka The Emily Farley Fund. Please contact Peg Balano at (207) 781-2641 to sign-up for the scholarship funding and register your guest.

LWVPA ANNUAL MEETING MAY 9th

Come meet more of the Portland Area League members. Join us for LWVPA's sixth Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 9th. We will start at 5:30 with social time & a light buffet, followed by our Guest

Speaker [Nickie Sekera](#), a crusader for Maine's water resources and cofounder of Community Water Justice, a resource network for water activists. Next comes the business meeting (with members voting on the slate of nominees and budget) and a raffle. The location is at the Mason Motz Facility, 190 Middle Road in Falmouth. Directions will be provided. All Portland Area members are invited, and we hope you will join us!

VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE

There have been 3 Naturalization Ceremonies so far this year, at Portland's King Middle School, Cumberland's Greely High School, and a Judicial Ceremony at Bangor District Court. In addition, we have begun to schedule our Spring voter registration drives at local high schools, colleges and tech schools. If you are interested in organizing an event at your local high school, please contact Al Cleveland at al@mainecleanelections.org. Remember, students who will be 18 years of age as of Election Day, Nov. 5th, can register to vote now, and participate in the June elections.

ENHANCE YOUR LEAGUE EXPERIENCE

Thanks to all our volunteers for helping with our various programs. Here are some of our needs to fill. We mentor and coach all volunteers!

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

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

[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.](#)