

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PORTLAND AREA NOMINATING SLATE 2019

Officers: (4)

Co-President: Peg Balano, two-year term, 2018-2020

Co-President: **Beth Basham**, one-year term, 2019-2020

Secretary: **Carol Carpenter**, two-year term, 2019-2021

Treasurer: **Polly Ward**, two-year term, 2019-2021

Elected Directors: (6)

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

Kim Rich (2018-2020)

Barbara Kaufman (2019-2020) (to complete Beth Basham's term)

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

Elaine DiGiovanni (2019-2021)

Gail Roller (2019-2021)

Kim Peaslee (2019-2021)

Sue Robins (2019-2021)

Nominating Committee: one year term, 2019-2020

Chair: Off Board (elected) **Katherine Charbonneau**, (2019-2020)

Member: Board (appointed) **Elaine DiGiovanni**, (2019-2020)

Member: Off Board (elected) **Valerie Kelly**, (2019-2020)

Emily Farley Fund Directors:

Chair: **Marsha Bingler**, (2019-2021)

Director: Jana Lapoint, (2018-2020)

Director: Alison Smith, (2018-2020)

Director: **Polly Ward**, (2019-2021)

Director: **Colleen Tucker**, (2019-2021)

BIOS of NOMINEES (in alphabetical order):

Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Basham moved to South Portland after retiring from a career as a project manager in Louisville, Kentucky. She teaches business communications/technical writing for Maine Maritime Academy and project management at Southern Maine Community College. She holds a PhD in Rhetoric and Written Composition and is a professional project manager. Beth has been a LWVPA board member for one year and is Co-Chair of the Study Committee LWVME Citizens Initiative.

Marsha Bingle is the current Emily Farley Fund Chair. Before moving to Portland nine years ago (and joining the LWVPA as it was reactivating), the League of Women Voters Pittsburgh Area was her primary volunteer commitment for 40+ years. Voter registration, fighting voter suppression, and protecting women's reproductive rights are her top priorities.

Carol Carpenter is a recent member of the Portland Area League. 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 has served as Secretary and Membership Co-Chair for the past two years. Carol and her husband retired to Maine four 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.

Katherine Charbonneau moved to Portland from Massachusetts five years ago, and through her involvement with the League of Women Voters, has found real satisfaction in being able to write to Maine legislators about upcoming legislation.

Retired in 2014, Katherine's career encompassed a variety of positions from Public Relations/Communications to Technology. She is excited to discover new places in Maine to hike, kayak, and cross-country ski.

Elaine DiGiovanni 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 volunteers at Portland Adult Education, is a Women United Around the World board member, and as a five-year member of the Portland Area League, is a current LWVPA Membership Co-Chair and a Nominating

Committee member. She is also serving on the LWVME Membership Committee. 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.

Barbara Kaufman became a League member 6 years ago and is the current

Co-President of the Portland Area League of Women Voters. 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 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 Chair of the Primary Study Committee and presently works with the Study Committee on Citizen Initiatives. She is now a grandmother and an astrologer with a passion for understanding the earth, stars, and planets!

Valerie Kelly has been a member of the LWVPA since 2012 and a Board member since 2013. She is currently on the Communications Committee assisting with sending out emails and newsletters and is also on the LWVME Citizen Initiative Study Committee. In 2013, Valerie served on the LWVUS Agricultural Update Study and in 2017, on the LWVME Primary Study Committee. In a former life, Valerie was an agricultural economist with a focus on policy research in Africa.

Kim Peaslee and her partner Joanne became permanent residents on Peaks Island in 2015, having moved from Somerville, Massachusetts. Since then, she has retired from Fidelity Investments after a decade with their corporate training services. For many years, she was also an independent training consultant and is still engaged in part-time work. While residing in the great state of Maine, she has kept busy with several activities: playing with the Peaks Island Ukes, volunteering with the Maine Historical Society, and joining the League of Women Voters. As a member of LWVPA, she has participated in voter registration drives, contributed to the design of a LWVME/MCCE-sponsored civics education course, and is currently a member of the Citizens Initiative study group.

Susanne (Sue) Robins is currently an intern supervisor for USM, substitute teacher in several local school districts, and is a recent graduate of

Emerge Maine. Before moving to Maine 2 years ago, Sue led a corporate and government soft skills consulting business and served on the Board of Education for Culver City Unified School District in Culver City, CA. Sue has also taught for many years for the University of California, Irvine Continuing Education Department. Volunteer work for Sue has included board membership on the board for EmpowerHer Institute in Los Angeles, CA, Executive Committee Membership for the Culver City Chamber of Commerce, and Girl Scout Troop Leadership. Sue holds a B.S. in Zoology, an M.S. in Education and a certificate in E-Learning. She looks forward to contributing to the important work of the LWVPA.

Gail Roller, a retired educator, is a resident of Kennebunkport where she lives with her husband Mark. She has two adult children. She is a trustee and an active member of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust and is a York County Master Gardener. Gail is an advocate for food security, environmental issues, education, equal rights/opportunities, and a just and ethically sound government. She has been a board member of the LWVPA for one year.

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 serve on the committee for the Emily Farley Fund.

Polly Ward joined the League of Women Voters of Maine in 2012 and is currently its Vice President. She is a member of the Advocacy Committee. Polly is also a member of the Portland Area League of Women Voters and serves as Treasurer. She moved to Maine in 1981 and retired in 2010 from a long career in the public sector, working primarily in human resources. She has served as Deputy Commissioner for the Maine Department of Education, Director of Personnel and Administrative Services for the Maine School Management Association, the South Portland School Department as Business Manager, and in human resources for Portland Public Schools.