



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

PO Box 863
Augusta, ME 04332-0863

THE MAINE VOTER

(207) 622-0256
lwwme@gwi.net
www.lwwme.org

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From the President –

Lots of exciting news to share! In December, the League of Women Voters of Maine and our long-time organizational ally, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) announced a new **Democracy Partnership**, bringing together the strengths of both organizations behind efforts to empower Maine voters of all backgrounds in pursuing concrete solutions to some of the deepest challenges facing our state and nation.



This new collaboration included the announcement of Anna Kellar as the first joint Executive Director of the collaboration. Anna brings a strong record of advocacy for political equality and civic participation. A Maine native, Kellar earned a Bachelors degree in political science from Yale University and a Masters degree in conflict studies from the London School of Economics. In her most recent role as Program Director of MCCE, she led a grassroots effort that secured Clean Elections funding and defeated attempts to undermine the law.



Anna Kellar, Executive Director

This is an historic moment for us. Combining our strengths with MCCE in this new partnership will ensure our ability to provide an ever more effective response to the challenges that confront our system of self-government. We are also excited to announce that as part of this new collaboration, the League and MCCE received funding to launch **Implement RCV**, a public education program designed to make sure the new system is successfully implemented and that all Maine voters understand how it works. More to come.

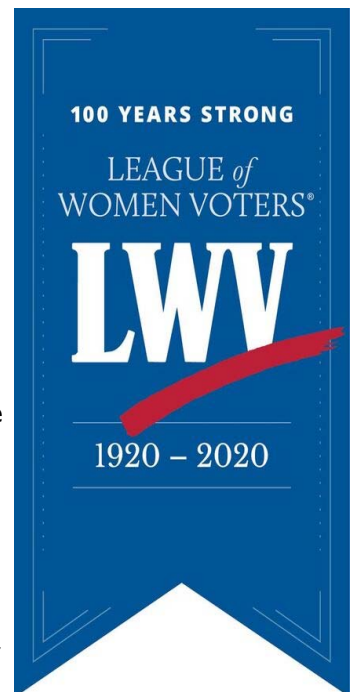
Our work to register voters at naturalization ceremonies continues, and this year we will be reaching out to more high schools and colleges to conduct voter registration and education. Finally, we are pleased to be partnering with the National Institute for Civil Discourse and Maine Revives Civility around community conversations across the state in ways that will help promote civility and foster greater public engagement.

It is a busy and exciting time! To keep up with all things League, check out our website, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter and Instagram. We welcome your participation and support!

Jill Ward
President, LWVME

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Report of the League Lobby Corps

By Ann Luther, Trenton

The League Lobby Corps, also known as the LWVME Advocacy Committee, is an all-volunteer team that works to support the state League's advocacy priorities in the Maine State Legislature:

- **Voting Rights**
- **Clean Elections & Campaign Finance Reform**
- **Election Methods & Administration, including Ranked Choice Voting**
- **Ethics & Disclosure**
- **Freedom of Information**
- **Good Government**

Current active members of the committee include: Ann Luther (Chair), Gina Coppens, Penelope Hamblin, Helen Hanlon, Linda Lord, Deb McDonough, David Sammarco, Polly Ward, and Ellen Wells. **We welcome new members!** If you are interested in joining the League Lobby Corps, let us know by email: lwvme@gwi.net.



The 2nd regular session of the 128th Legislature convened on January 3, 2018. Statutory adjournment for the 2nd session — the "short session" — is April 18, 2018. Legislators who are running for re-election or for higher office are already into campaign mode. Leadership in both parties will work hard to limit the scope of activity between now and April.

Last year, the League instituted a new weekly email message, **Action Under the Dome**, that features news on timely legislative developments on our bills, advance notice of public hearings and work sessions, and action alerts when key votes are coming up. If you haven't been receiving this widely-respected and often-imitated weekly message, make sure we have your current email address by sending a message to the League Lobby Corps at lwvme@gwi.net.

We are watching just a few priority bills, which you can look up on-line at: <https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/search.asp>. You can also find more information and League testimony at: http://www.lwvme.org/about_action.html.

LD 1780 - An Act to Transfer Funds to the Maine Clean Election Fund To Provide Adequate Funding for Maine Clean Election Fund Candidates. We testified in support of [LD 1780](#). We now have 9 candidates hoping to qualify as Clean Election candidates for Governor (3 Democrats, 1 Republican, 2 Greens, and 3 independents). That's really great! Thanks to our hard work last session with our partners at MCCE, the baseline funding for Clean Elections is in the state budget. With this heightened level of candidate participation, the Ethics Commission is playing it safe and requesting additional funding, starting with the \$1.7 million still owed to the Clean Elections Fund from 2014. All the money might not be needed, but better to have it in case we do.

Voter ID. Governor LePage used his Friday radio address on January 5 to reopen a question that the Legislature addressed last session, as they have in each legislature since 2010: Voter ID. Yes, it's back. We have repeatedly and consistently opposed requiring a photo ID to vote. The Governor's bill has not yet been printed.

LD 1726 - An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections. This bill would ban signature gathering for citizen initiatives at polling places on Election Day. The League testified at the public hearing on this bill in the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee (VLA) on January 3. The sentiment from the public hearing was overwhelmingly opposed.

Presidential Primaries vs. Caucuses. On January 3, the Office of the Secretary of State delivered its Report Regarding Establishing a Presidential Primary System in Maine as required by a law passed by the 127th Legislature. The law directed the Secretary of State to examine state and municipal costs for conducting such a primary and report back by December 1, 2017. The law also includes an automatic repeal provision with an effective date of December 1, 2018. If the legislature does not take action this session, our presidential nominations will revert to the caucus system and not primaries. The Legislature will be considering the impact of these findings and the ramifications for proceeding with such a primary in 2020.

LWVME renews “Keys to the Capitol” event in Augusta

By Helen Hanlon, Winthrop

Years ago, members took to the State Capitol to meet and greet elected representatives, share and plan future actions, ideas, and strategies, reflecting the League’s mission. Enhanced by our new partnership with MCCE, our joint Executive Director Anna Kellar and a cadre of enthusiastic volunteers went to work to make this event, in celebration of the League’s 98th anniversary, a reality.

It was a great day of learning, networking, and advocacy as we celebrated the League’s 98th birthday at the Maine State House! Nearly fifty people registered to learn about our legislative priorities, get tips for effective lobbying, and connect with their legislators. The Legislature passed a joint resolution honoring the League’s work, which was marked by impassioned floor speeches from Reps. Herbig, Hymanson, and Hickman. We were so proud to be there!



Anna conducted the opening ceremonies: highlights included remarks from Speaker of the House, Sara Gideon, outlining her interest in the political process and her commitment to the future of Maine’s citizens. Senator Eric Brakey of Auburn, provided introduction of our young soloist, Alina Liebert of Sabbathus, followed by a keynote address from author Anne B. Gass who provided an informative and entertaining historical perspective of suffrage in Maine.

In the afternoon, members and friends gathered for an elegant tea at the Blaine House, our beautiful, historic Governor’s mansion, and to hear a lively panel discussion moderated by our own, Ann Luther, on one of the hottest issues of 2018: gerrymandering. Panelists included:

- Constitutional law expert, Dmitry Bam, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Maine Law School
- Mathematician David Feldman, College of the Atlantic faculty in physics and mathematics
- Political scientist Richard J. Powell, University of Maine Professor of Political Science and Director of the William S. Cohen Institute for Leadership & Public Service
- Census expert Richard Taylor, Communications and Research Manager from the Maine Housing Authority

In case you missed it live, you can watch a the video on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVME/>.

If you missed it this, year, we hope you will join us for Keys to the Capitol in 2019!



SHAUNA SHAMES

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

THE GREAT (POLITICAL) DIVIDE: WHY WOMEN, MINORITIES, AND MILLENNIALS ARE UNDERREPRESENTED IN POLITICS

March 5, 2018
Bangor Public Library
Bangor, ME 04401

March 6, 2018
University of Southern Maine
Portland, ME 04101

Shauna Shames, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at Rutgers University will be speaking in Bangor, at Bates, and in Portland.

The talks on March 5 and 6 are sponsored by the Scholars Strategy Network, the League of Women Voters of Maine, and the University of Maine Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center.

For more information, go to:
<http://www.lwvme.org/calendar.html>

We hope you can come!

Implementing Ranked Choice Voting

By John Brautigam, Falmouth

Supporters of ranked choice voting (RCV) were thrilled and gratified to see that over 70,000 Maine citizens signed the petition to ensure that the innovative voting system will be used in the 2018 primary and future Maine elections. The signature collection effort took less than 90 days and has the effect of reversing a legislative decision that would have delayed or possibly repealed ranked choice voting.

Maine voters will have another opportunity to affirm RCV when the People's Veto appears on the June ballot. And all voters — whether they vote for the People's Veto or not — will be using RCV to cast their ballot for candidates in this year's primary elections. With the successful signature collection effort, all eyes are now turned toward election administrators who have the task of implementing RCV.

LWVME continues to urge the legislature and election officials to take all steps necessary to ensure that our first RCV election goes smoothly. We believe that certain **core election principles** adopted by the League of Women Voters of the United States should guide the officials and staff responsible for implementing RCV in Maine:

1. **The election must be accessible.** This means that the voter registration and voting processes are free from unreasonable obstacles; that all voting procedures and instructions, including the ballot itself, are widely available, clear and understandable to voters; that voters with voting questions receive appropriate assistance from clerks, wardens, and volunteers at the polling place; and that voters experiencing cognitive or physical disabilities have the same opportunity as other voters to vote their ranked-choice ballot privately and independently.
2. **The election must be secure.** This means that ballot applications, ballots, voter rolls, and all related paper and electronic records are created, distributed, stored, and maintained so that no unauthorized person can tamper or interfere in any way, and that no records are inadvertently damaged, misplaced, delayed, or altered during the election process and through any recounts or audits.
3. **The election results must be accurate.** This means that the voters' marks on ballots are read to correctly reflect the intention of the voter, that the mechanisms for aggregation and tabulation of separate ballots into an election result conform to the approach set forth in law and regulations, and that protocols are in place to detect and limit the effect of any human or mechanical errors, flaws, irregularities, loss of information, or discrepancies that diminish confidence in the process or affect the outcome of the election.
4. **The election must be transparent.** Every step in the election process, from the design of election procedures through the completion of all recounts or audits, must be visible to the public to the greatest extent possible and any portions of the process not open to public inspection must be protected by appropriate security measures to ensure the integrity of election systems and materials. Any software, digital files, or electronic processing and transmission of election information should be open to inspection, verification, and replication by the public using appropriate means including third-party software tools. Transparency should be provided without delay.
5. **Election results must be announced to the public in a timely fashion.** The public must have sufficient and immediate information about the process of tabulating ballots as the process is unfolding, including immediate progress reports, intermediate status, and publication of statewide first-rank vote recipients. Election administrators must create and implement a plan for tabulating and announcing the results recognizing that time is of the essence, and that any needless delay would be detrimental to public confidence in the results. Final election results must be certified within the time frame established under current law.
6. **The election must be recountable.** Consistent with existing recount principles, referring back to the source paper ballots, election officials must institute a plan that allows for complete, prompt, and accurate recounts in any race where the tabulated results show that small anomalies in the count could affect the ultimate outcome.
7. **Maine needs to implement election audits.** Ideally, within a short time after results are finalized, election administrators should perform a random audit of appropriate design and sufficient scope to verify Election Day tabulations and confirm public confidence in all aspects of the election administration. Although it does not appear likely in time for the June 2018 primary, Maine should begin implementing election audits as soon as possible.

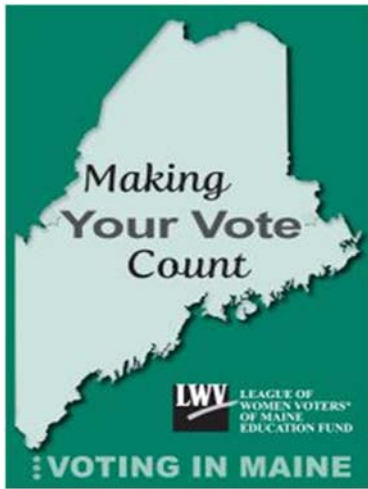
Election officials play a vital role in this process to continue to uphold the public trust in our democratic system. LWVME is fully committed to ensuring that all aspects of state election administration have all the support and resources that they need. Elections matter. Let's get it right.

Voter Services Committee Update

By Peg Balano, Falmouth

League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) 2017 Grant

In 2017, LWVME Ed Fund applied for and received a grant from the national LWVEF to support our efforts in registering new citizens to vote after their Naturalization Ceremonies. Attending these ceremonies is a joyful experience, and we looked forward to improving our processes. Here are two changes we were able to make with the benefit of this grant.



Feedback from our volunteers noted that the **Voting in Maine: Making Your Vote Count** brochure would be more helpful to our new voters with information about the Voter Registration Card and the Political Parties. We added four pages to the brochure that now show both sides of the actual Voter Registration Card and describe required information. Two additional pages answer the question, “Why choose a political party?” and provide descriptive information on the four Maine parties: Democratic, Green Independent, Libertarian and Republican. Check out the new **Voting in Maine: Making Your Vote Count** brochure on-line, which we hand out to every new citizen and newly registered voter, at: www.lwvme.org/Brochure.html.

We also wondered how to make our League volunteers stand out at voter registration events and came up with custom designed lanyards that hold LWVME business cards. Now new citizens can easily identify League volunteers and if a volunteer needs to pass information on to someone, our contact information is readily available.

Total 2017 Voter Registrations

The League attended 25 Naturalization Ceremonies statewide and registered 437 new citizens to vote following their ceremony. We held 15 Voter Registration Drives statewide at high schools, colleges and farmers markets, and registered another 106 voters. Our total for the year was 543 new voters!



LWVEF 2018 Grant

A new grant opportunity came in 2018, for a Youth Voter Registration project. We applied and were accepted again! The five local area LWVME chapters (Bangor, Brunswick, Downeast, Midcoast, and Portland) will hold voter registration events this Spring. Each chapter will work with 1-2 local schools to engage high school, community college, and/or vocational school students in the electoral process. Let the competition begin! This will be a good time as well to talk about Ranked Choice Voting with the students. We will send out reminders to vote in June and November, to those who sign up for this service. To get involved in our voter registration work, please contact me at Peg.Balano@gmail.com for more information.

Are We Reaching You? — We Want You with Us.

It's an electronic age. We still send this paper newsletter, and we hope you appreciate receiving it this way. But more and more, we depend on electronic media to keep in touch with our members and supporters. Mostly, we try to stay in touch by email. If we don't have your current email, you are missing timely notifications of interesting events, critical action alerts, and engaging opportunities to do good work. You can make sure you're up-to-date by **signing up on our website** at www.lwvme.org. Or just **send us a message** at lwvme@gwi.net with your current information, and we'll update for you.

Are you at AOL.com? Oops. And apologies. Our email service is having a problem sending to AOL.com addresses. This has been going on for some weeks, and our vendor is working to correct the problem, but it's not done yet. If you have an alternate email that we can use to stay in touch, please let us know.

You can also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LWVME/> and on Twitter @LWVME.

Primary (Candidate Selection Process) Study Committee

By Barbara Kaufman, South Freeport

A funny thing happened on the way to a Primary Concurrence Study. The statewide committee couldn't find a League study with which to concur! As a result, we have asked for and received the LWWME Board's approval to conduct a limited-scale consensus study. Members of the study group are Gina Coppens, Helen Hanlon, Barbara Kaufman, Valerie Kelly, Stephanie Philbrick, Jane Smith, and Polly Ward.



In the last Voter, the two different types of League studies were defined:

A *Concurrence* study is based on a study done or policy adopted by another state chapter. Resources may be adapted from the original study, and the study question is a discussion on whether or not to adopt the policy developed by the other chapter. A *Consensus* study starts from scratch. If the LWWUS has no official position on a topic, and there is no concurrence with another state, a Consensus study must be conducted to formulate new policy.

For months we have researched, discussed, teleconferenced, written, and analyzed; we have poured over the Florida, Ohio, Oregon, and other League studies without being able to identify a study with which we can recommend concurrence. Consequently, we are now conducting a hybrid of the two types of studies by drawing on the work of other Leagues for background materials and study guides, adding some resources of our own, and allowing LWWME to develop its own position statement based on responses to consensus questions by local units.

Given that legislative decisions about presidential caucuses and primaries are still in flux, we realize that the interest is great and rapid completion of the study is important, so the study committee hopes to present to the Board a complete Study Guide and Questionnaire in April. Consensus meetings by local units will follow shortly thereafter.

For those eager to start reading, the committee recommends three pieces, each presenting different points of view:

- ⇒ “Why Competition in the Politics Industry is Failing America,” Harvard Business School, September 2017: <http://www.hbs.edu/competitiveness/Documents/why-competition-in-the-politics-industry-is-failing-america.pdf>
- ⇒ “More professionalism, less populism: How voting makes us stupid, and what to do about it,” by Jonathan Rauch and Benjamin Wittes, Center for Effective Public Management at Brookings, May 2017: <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/more-professionalism-less-populism.pdf>
- ⇒ “Want to Fix American Politics? Open up the Primaries,” by John Opdycke for *The Hill*, June 27, 2017: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/civil-rights/339704-want-to-fix-american-politics-open-up-the-primaries>

Who Lives at P.O. Box 606, Lewiston, ME 04243-0606?

It's our national affiliate, the League of Women Voters of the U.S.! Two years ago, LWWUS contracted with a financial services firm in Lewiston to process receipts and donations. While we are pleased and proud that a Maine-based firm was chosen to service our national account, it has created some confusion here at home. **Our state League, the League of Women Voters of Maine, keeps a PO box in Augusta: that is PO Box 863, Augusta, ME 04332.**

Checks sent to Lewiston are for the sole benefit of LWWUS. **You should not send dues payments to this address.** As things now stand, you may not renew your League membership with a payment to LWWUS. LWWUS accepts donations to benefit our important work at the federal level, but none of this money comes back to Maine.

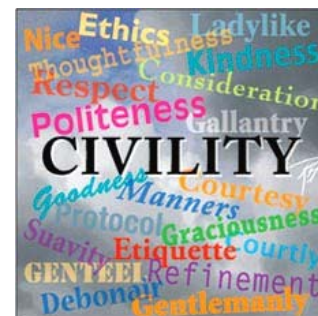
Membership dues and donations to benefit the work of our state and local Leagues here in Maine should be sent to our PO box in Augusta. Dues sent to that address to join or renew with a local League are passed through directly to that local League. A considerable portion of dues payments from Maine-based members goes to LWWUS, as it should. Here in Maine, we also depend on non-dues donations to support our ambitious work at the state level. For the benefit of state and local Leagues in Maine, checks should be sent to the Augusta address. Here's that address again: **LWWME and LWWME Education Fund, P.O. Box 863, Augusta, ME 04332**

Community Conversations

By Anne Schink, South Portland

Conducting community conversations is the subject of frequent and ongoing interest to League members, whether we undertake them ourselves or collaborate with other organizations. It is a big part of our strategic plan and the work we want to do over the next 3-5 years.

Partnering with the National Institute for Civil Discourse and their Maine Revives Civility initiative has opened a new range of opportunities to bring communities together to have respectful conversations about issues of concern to local communities. The goal is to have large group community conversations in at least one community in each of the sixteen counties of Maine. All League members will be encouraged to attend these meetings, which will bring together people with varied viewpoints from all segments of the community.



The League is in the process of developing training components to accompany these conversations based on the Portland League's experience this past year. Weaving together the interests of local Leagues and the new partnership with Maine Citizens for Clean Elections may produce another level of conversation about topics of particular interest to the League. Together with MCCE we have applied for grants to allow us to expand our reach beyond what we can provide with an entirely volunteer team of committed people.

Anyone interested in engaging in this project should contact us. We are particularly interested in people with an interest and experience in facilitating group meetings. Contact Anne Schink at abschink@gwi.net or (207) 799-3112.

League of Women Voters of Maine Archive at the Fogler Library



The first article in this year's Fogler Library magazine is *The Spirit of the League - The League of Women Voters of Maine Collection Details a Century of Civic Commitment* by Alice Baker. It talks about LWVME's archive, one of the largest collections in the Library comprising 98 boxes of documentation (and growing) and documenting the years 1913—2008. Moriah Frances Lee, a student employee working on the 'finding aid', said, "They (LWVME) actually did a lot, and they were involved in the community. It was fascinating to see that this is an organization that made an impact." Anyone interested in viewing material in the LWVME collection can contact Fogler Library Special Collections at 207-581-1686 or email um.library.spc@maine.edu. A 'finding aid' for this collection is available at www.digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu.

Save the Date!

New England Regional Leadership Development Conference (aka Quad States)

Mark your calendar for **April 7-8, 2018**, for our annual regional leadership development conference (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI + VT) at the Hampton Inn in Wells, Maine. On Friday night the early arrivals dine together at a local restaurant and make final arrangements for the conference. It's a fun and relaxing evening.

Saturday is a full day featuring keynote speaker, Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos, an update from Toni Zimmer, LWVUS national board liaison, and a workshop on the status of DC Statehood with Joanna London from LWVDC. Additional workshops fill out the day. Saturday evening is a dine-around at local restaurants. Sunday includes a training component and ends with updates from all the state Leagues. We adjourn at noon.

It's a great way to meet others who are passionate about the things that you care about, to be inspired, to gain new insights, and to share your League successes.

For more information about registration go to: www.lwvme.org/Quad.html.

LOCAL LEAGUE UPDATES

Bangor Area Chapter

Bangor continues its book discussions on the 2nd Tuesday at 5:30 at Seasons Restaurant on Main Street in Bangor. In February besides discussing the book, *Don't Think of an Elephant* by George Lakoff, it held a viewing of the film, *An Inconvenient Sequel* at the Bangor Public Library. The March 13 book will be *Janesville: an American Story* by Amy Goldstein. Members are looking forward to the Shauna Shamas talk on March 5.

Brunswick Area Chapter

The BA chapter planning committee is growing! Donna Chale, Kathy Coleman, Dusty Post (Chair), Denise Streeter, and Christine De Troy are organizing several events for late winter and early spring. All BA members are welcome to join in the planning – contact us at brunswick@lwvme.org if you want to be involved. Watch your email for announcements about these upcoming events & contact us with any questions.

As a part of International Women's Day (March 8), we are sponsoring two events. The first is a showing of the award-winning documentary, *Equal Means Equal*, which looks at the state of women in the U.S. today, examines laws that claim to protect women, and presents the case for ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. Ensuring equality of persons continues to be a critical issue and is highlighted by today's #MeToo movement. The date and venue for this showing in Brunswick is to be determined. The second event is still in the planning stages but will be a panel of speakers addressing many of the issues women face in the workplace and school settings, in social settings and dating, as well as in clinical settings. What is appropriate behavior, and what can women do to address concerns of harassment or other inappropriate behavior?

Our first Book Club will discuss *One Nation Under Trump – A guide for the Perplexed, the Disillusioned, the Desperate, and the Not-Yet-Deported* by E.J. Dionne, Norman Ornstein, and Thomas Mann. The Club will meet at Kathy Coleman's house on Sunday May 20, 2018, from 2:30 to 4:30pm.

The BA chapter will also be participating in Voter Registration Drives throughout the year with particular focus on spring drives sponsored through a grant from the LWVEF. More details to follow.

Downeast Chapter

The Democracy Forum is back! After a couple of months off over the winter holidays, we'll open our sixth season with a show titled, **"Primary Elections: What Are They Good For?" on February 16**. We'll feature guests [Jill Goldthwait](#), former Maine State Senator and award-winning political columnist for the Ellsworth American and the Mount Desert Islander; [Kevin Raye](#), former President of the Maine State Senate, former Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe, currently owner/operator of Raye's Mustard; and [Dan Shea](#), Professor of Government at Colby College. We'll talk about how primaries have changed over the last 50 years, whether they're still working for the parties and the voters, and what changes are on the horizon in Maine.



The program airs 10:00-11:00 a.m., the third Friday of most months on WERU-FM Community Radio, 89.9 Blue Hill, 99.9 Bangor. You can listen live on the web from outside the broadcast area at <https://weru.org/>, and if you miss it live, you can find the audio archive and more information at <http://www.lwvme.org/currentDF.html>. Other shows being planned for the 2018 series include gerrymandering, the strategic uses of citizen initiatives, RCV, and the citizens' guide to elections in Maine.

Our book group continues to meet monthly, and it's still a lot of fun. We are also joining with other local Leagues around the state to organize youth voter registration in advance of the primary election this spring. Read more about that elsewhere in this issue.

Midcoast Chapter

The newly organized LWV Midcoast chapter in Knox County has been meeting monthly since September. Though the Midcoast chapter is new, we are learning and growing and very excited to be part of the League's work. We are especially grateful for the support and guidance of so many League volunteers. Ann Luther of the LWVME state board has been a faithful mentor to our group and provided guidance and enthusiasm at every meeting. The project calendar for the year was quickly developed, and the Midcoast group organized a public forum in October. Ann served as moderator for the panelists who discussed both sides of all of the questions on the November ballot. Over forty community members attended.

The following month the chapter hosted, "Can We Talk?---Managing Difficult Conversation in Politics and Current Events." This workshop on civil discourse was presented by Anne B. Schink and Valerie Kelley on November 18, giving the thirty attendees time to practice civility skills including how to disagree respectfully and listen to another person's perspective on an issue. Hopefully it came in handy at their Thanksgiving tables. Peg Balano, Chair of Voter Services for LWVME, came to the December meeting and trained the 15 members in attendance on how to register new voters and provided supplies for our Spring Student Registration drives. The Midcoast Chapter will be registering students from Camden Hills Regional High School, Oceanside High School, and University of Maine Extension in Rockland (U Rock) during the month of March. More registration drives are planned for later in the year.

In February, Anna Kellar the League's new statewide Executive Director spoke with the group providing details of the many pieces that support the League's volunteers. The Midcoast chapter is planning an event in early May to reach out to voters regarding the importance of primaries, explain Ranked Choice Voting, and offer voter registration on site. Midcoast LWV meets on the first Monday of every month from 5:30-7pm in Rockland. FMI: midcoast@lvme.org

Portland Area Chapter

What a busy year so far! Each month the Portland Area chapter holds a program open to members and the general public. Every other month we have an open Board meeting to report on committee work, discuss upcoming events, debrief past events, problem solve, and review our organization goals. We have lots of laughs as well. If you are interested in becoming more active and learning more about Board work, we are always looking for new Directors. Please contact Barbara at kaufman.barb@gmail.com.

One of our goals is to help our members and area residents focus on leading and participating in civil dialogue that is both honest and respectful. In October 2017, we held both the 3rd part of our facilitator training and led a Scarborough Adult Education class in awareness and practice of communication skills; helpful when engaging with anyone who holds conflicting views. On March 14, 2018, two LWVPA facilitators will lead another, similar Scarborough Adult Ed class. If you are interested, please contact Scarborough Adult Education: <http://scarborough.maineadulted.org/contact/> or 207-730-5040.



Our November 2017 program, titled 'Political Parties: What's Going On?', was held at Falmouth's American Legion Hall and blended nicely with the state level Candidate Selection Process Study Committee's work. Panels included: Bowdoin Professor, Andrew Rudalevige, and representatives of Maine's 4 recognized parties (Democrat, Green Independent, Libertarian, and Republican). An open Q&A followed the panel discussion.

December was dedicated to celebrating our League at a holiday party held at a Board member's home in the West End. We all met and welcomed Anna Kellar at that time. In January, the League partnered with Maine Citizens for Clean Elections to air and discuss "Pay to Play," a documentary about money in politics. After the film, four action groups formed and discussed local and related topics. The next day, the LWVPA had a presence at the Portland Area Woman's March event at Space Gallery. February featured Keys to the Capital on the 15th (read article in Voter) and our book discussion on *Evicted*, by Matthew Desmond, in partnership with the Portland Public Library on February 20. On the first Saturday of each month, our local newsletter is emailed to members. If you wish to receive this and don't already, please contact Valerie: kelly@msu.edu.

Donors and Supporters

Thank you to our members and donors who help support the work of the League of Women Voters of Maine (LWVME) and the League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund (LWVME Ed Fund).

We could not do it without you!

League of Women Voters of Maine

Under \$100

Bonnie Anderson
Rona Backstrom
Margo Bailey
Peg & Jeff Balano
Loreen Ballestas
Nadine Bangarter
Susan Barker
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Sarah Skillin Woodard
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Jana Lapoint
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Elizabeth Muench
Jack & Beulah Bender
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John & Carla Rensenbrink
Kim Simmons
Moira Simonds
Alison Smith
John Sterling
Richard & Penny Stevens
Richard Tappan
Denise & Sheldon Tepler
Linda Washburn
Cathie Whittenburg
Debbie & Dick Woodbury

\$500 and over

Dara Jean Kaufman Fund of the Maine Community Foundation
Emily Farley Fund of the Maine Community Foundation
Joel Frantzman

League of Women Voters Education Fund
Ann Luther & Alan Vlach
Maine People's Resource Center
Motorola Solutions Foundation on behalf of Ched Zaccaria
Nash Foundation on behalf of John Brautigam
Jill Ward & Ched Zaccaria
WhyNot Initiative

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 5
5:30PM

Bangor: Shauna Shames — *The Great (Political) Divide: Why Women, Minorities, and Millennials are Underrepresented in Politics*. Reception to follow.
Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow Street.

Tuesday, March 6
5:00PM

Portland: Shauna Shames — *The Great (Political) Divide: Why Women, Minorities, and Millennials are Underrepresented in Politics*. Reception and light refreshments at 5pm; Lecture at 5:30pm. Abromson Community Education Center, Room 213, University of Southern Maine.

Thursday, March 8
5:30-7:30PM

LWVPA (Portland Area) Open Board Meeting: United States Customs House, 312 Fore Street in downtown Portland. Bring your dinner!

Tuesday, March 13
5:30PM

Bangor: Book Discussion on *Janesville: an American Story* by Amy Goldstein. Seasons Restaurant, 427 Main Street.

Wednesday, March 14
6:00-8:00PM

Scarborough: *Reviving Civility: Building Bridges with Civil Dialogue*. Scarborough Adult Ed Class, Scarborough High School, 11 Municipal Drive. \$5 Adult Ed fee; \$10 for handouts

Thursday, March 15
5:00-7:00PM

Downeast: Book Discussion on *Re-Writing the Rules of the American Economy: An Agenda for Growth and Shared Prosperity* by Joseph Stiglitz. Great snacks and good company. All welcome. RSVP or get directions at downeast@lwvme.org.

Friday, March 16
10:00-11:00AM

Downeast: Democracy Forum radio program in cooperation with WERU FM. WERU 89.9 FM Blue Hill and 99.9 FM Bangor. Streaming at weru.org.

Friday, April 6 -
Sunday, April 8

New England States Leadership Development Conference (aka Quad States)
Hampton Inn & Suites, 900 Post Road, Wells. For information and to register go to: www.lwvme.org/Quad.html.

Thursday, April 12
5:30-7:30PM

LWVPA (Portland Area) Open Board Meeting: Martin's Point Jewell Room, 331 Veranda Street, Building 6, Portland. Bring your dinner!

JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Join the League and be part of the solution! Your community needs leaders like you to be a strong, safe, and vibrant place to live. Become a member and make a positive impact on your community.

Sign up online at www.lwvme.org and pay by credit card or PayPal, or mail this form and a check made payable to **LWVME to PO Box 863, Augusta, ME 04332-0863**. *Dues are not tax deductible.* But contributions made payables to LWVME Education Fund are deductible and are always appreciated. Thank you!

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- Introductory Member (First Year) - \$25 Student Member - \$25 Single Member - \$55
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League of Women Voters of Maine
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