

New England League of Women Voters Regional Conference 2019

ADVANCING CIVILITY IN A DIVERSE NEW ENGLAND

Friday evening, April 5 (optional): dinner out and socializing with other early arrivals.

Raffle Tickets Please visit our raffle table to benefit this Conference. Prizes are contributed by League members. Tickets are available all weekend: \$5 each or five for \$20.

Saturday, April 6

9:00--9:30 Registration at York County Community College, coffee, and welcome.

9:30 -9:45 Welcome and Introductions: Anne Schink

The League of Women Voters as an organization believes in ‘empowering voters’ and ‘defending democracy’. We are committed to a program that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our conference will use this lens to focus on civility, diversity, and the unengaged voter.

9:45--10:45 Keynote Speaker: [Nancy Thomas, Director of Institute for Democracy and Higher Education, Tufts University](#), will address the question of 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?

Questions & Answers

10:45--11:00 BREAK

11:00--12:15 Workshop: Communicating Across the Divide: Challenges and Tools: [Susan Clark, author of *Slow Democracy: Rediscovering Community, Bringing Decision Making Back home*](#). We've all experienced the "us-them" mentality that divides our society. And yet we also know that it will take all kinds working together -- liberal, conservative, and every other category we divide ourselves into -- to build long-term answers. We will explore our own preferences and worldviews, and how they affect our work. We'll examine emerging research and practical ways communities are applying this information to break down barriers and renew civil democratic engagement.

12:15--1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 4:15 Diversity Workshop and Break-out sessions

1:00 – 1:05 Welcome and introductions

1:05 – 1:10 Opening presentation
Facilitator: Jane Koster

The panel will describe some key factors that divide us—economic inequality, rural/urban divide, and differences in education levels—and discuss how efforts to promote gender, age, race, and ethnic diversity in civic engagement can be strengthened by policies aimed at reducing these divisions.

1:10 -1:15 Introduce panelists

1:15 – 2:45 Presentations by panel members: “What underlying factors contribute to the disparities that divide us?”

Panelists will:

- 1) describe how economic, geographic, and educational factors divide us and interact with differences in gender, age, race, and ethnicity and
- 2) offer examples of actions/policies that can reduce the divisions

1:15 - 1:30 Economic disparity
Garrett Martin, Maine Center for Economic Policy

1:30 - 1:45 Place-Based Values: Rural/Suburban/Urban
Susan Clark, Author and Trainer, Vermont

1:45 - 2:00 Education/literacy
Leslie Haslam, Director Exeter NH Adult Education

2:00 – 2:45 Questions & Discussion

2:45 – 3:00 BREAK

3:00 – 3:30 Small group discussions (choose one) (separate classrooms)

Consider how we integrate what we learned in the morning about voting and civic engagement, how we communicate with one another, and what steps we can take to overcome divisions.

- Economic disparity
Facilitator: Mary Anne Ashton
Resource Person: Garrett Martin, Maine Center for Economic Policy
- Place-based values: Rural/Suburban/Urban
Facilitator: Gail Roller
Resource Person: Susan Clark, Author and Trainer, Vermont
- Education/literacy
Facilitator: Nancy Marashio
Resource Person: Leslie Haslam, Director Exeter NH Adult Education

3:30 – 3:40 Return to large group

3:40 – 3:55 Report back from small groups (5 minutes from each group)

4:55- 4:15 What is the connection (or is there a connection) to voting patterns from the morning discussion?

4:15 – 4:30 Clean up and leave

Sunday, April 7

Until 9:00 Breakfast at the Hampton Inn included with room reservation.

9:00--10:00 Takeaways from Saturday's sessions

Facilitator: Liz Tentarelli

- Summary of results of Saturday's sessions
- Implications for each state
- What can we do to cross the divide?
- How does this shape leadership for LWV moving forward?

10:00--10:15 BREAK

10:15--11:45 Getting ready for 2020: LWV 100th anniversary

Facilitator: Karen Bufka

- Celebrating our history
- Going beyond our current goals
- What will we do to move our organization forward?
- How do we incorporate many new voices?
- Organizing for the 2020 NE Leadership Conference

11:45 Raffle Drawing: We close on Sunday with our annual raffle to benefit this Conference, with prizes contributed by League members. Prizes will be on display and tickets will be available all weekend, \$5 each or five for \$20. **11:45--12:00** Wrap-up and adjourn. **Don't leave early -- Sunday could be the best part!**