



# NH Voter

**League of Women Voters  
New Hampshire**

**LWVNH.org**

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**APRIL 2016**

*With sincere thanks to the League members and friends whose donations made this portrait possible...*

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

## **MARILLA RICKER PORTRAIT UNVEILING CEREMONY**

**Monday, May 16, 2016**

**3:30 pm**

**State House, north rear entry corridor**

followed by a reception on the  
State House Plaza

The NH Women's Bar Association and the League of  
Women Voters NH  
and the Joint Legislative Historical Committee  
ask you to join us in honoring

**MARILLA MARKS YOUNG RICKER, ESQ.  
1840 - 1920  
suffragist, attorney, free-thinker, humanitarian,  
proud NH native**

whose portrait will join those of other distinguished NH leaders  
in accordance with resolutions passed in 1997 and 2013

If you plan to attend, RSVP is appreciated: [LWV@kenliz.net](mailto:LWV@kenliz.net)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.  
Some reserved seating for the elderly and disabled.

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**April League Events a Big Success**

**Day at the Legislature**

To all our League members who attended our Day at the Legislature on April 5, thank you for coming and sharing this exciting opportunity to learn about League work.

Wearing League buttons, we sat in on legislative hearings. Some of us were surprised at the civility of the NH legislature, in sharp contrast to the presidential race as portrayed on TV. Others of us were impressed by the expertise of people testifying in hearings. Some learned more about the process of how a bill becomes a law or how it can be killed along the route. Several current and former legislators spoke to us, insisting that our voices can and should be heard.

**NE League Leadership Conference**

Just a few days later, 12 LWVNH members attended the New England League Leadership Conference in Maine. At times it was like trying to take a drink from a fire hose. We had to listen hard and think fast as presenters gave us many tips on improving communication techniques with the public and with legislators. Now we need to digest what we learned and come up with action plans for increasing the impact of the League. Thank you to those who attended and contributed so much to the experience. Thank you, also, the LWVNH Education Fund whose grant helped fund the conference.

- Liz Tentarelli

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**League Expansion Possibilities**

To our League members and friends in the **Portsmouth** and **Hopkinton** areas, exciting meetings in the works. No date set for Portsmouth, but we have several key members there who will be meeting with state board members in May to discuss forming a Seacoast unit. Email Liz Tentarelli at [LWV@kenliz.net](mailto:LWV@kenliz.net) if you want to be notified of the meeting.

LWV Greater Capital Area member Janet Ward has arranged for a meeting at Hopkinton Library on Wednesday, May 18 from 5:30 to 7 pm to discuss League, either a new unit or one linked to LWVGCA.

If you live in either area or you know people who might be interested, please let them know they are welcome to come to learn more about League. No commitment, no pressure—just come and discover what we do and what we can do in the future.

## **Newsletter Editor Needed**

Our current newsletter editor Joan Flood Ashwell must give up the editor position. We thank her for two years of excellent work. Under Joan's direction we expanded from three paper copies of the NH Voter per year to nine or 10 copies, emailed to nearly all our members. We make simple photocopies and mail them to members who don't use email. So news is current, accessible, and because of email links it can offer more thorough coverage for those who want the details.

If you have basic computer skills, care about the League, can give a few hours a month about nine times a year to compiling and formatting articles that board members write, you can make sure that all LWVNH members and friends stay informed. You are welcome to design a new format. LWVUS has some guidelines for use of the logo but, otherwise, Leagues are free to design the newsletter as they wish.

The editor need not (but is welcome to) attend monthly board meetings. This can all be done from the comfort of your computer desk.

Please email Liz Tentarelli at [LWV@kenliz.net](mailto:LWV@kenliz.net) to discuss the position. We really need someone to take this task off Joan's shoulders to let her focus on her election law work.

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## **Convention 2016—Washington DC**

LWVNH will be sending two delegates to the national League convention in June. We thank Gwen Mikailov and Sylvia Gale, both from Nashua, for representing NH. Sara McNeil from Warner is going as a delegate from LWV Kearsarge/Sunapee.

The delegates will be asked to vote on the redistricting concurrence position, to consider other proposals for studies or projects, to participate in business such as electing new board members. And they will be exposed to the ideas and enthusiasm of League members from around the country in several days of caucusing. They will also participate in Lobby Day, when LWV arranges for delegates to meet their own Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill.

Have a wonderful time, Gwen, Sylvia and Sara; and come back and tell us all about it!

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## **LWVUS Sets its Legislative Priorities for the Coming Year**

The LWVUS Board set federal legislative priorities for the second session of the 114th Congress at its January board meeting. The League has many positions from which to take action but establishing a focus for our national advocacy is a critical responsibility of the LWVUS Board as it is for every League Board.

In setting priorities, the Board considers a number of factors, the most important of which is focusing League effort where it can have the greatest impact. For 2016, the LWVUS legislative priorities are ranked in two tiers.

The first tier priority is Representative Democracy, which includes [voting rights](#) and election administration, [money in politics](#), redistricting reform and work on a possible [constitutional convention](#).

The second tier is Climate Change.

League will continue to watch action on several other issues including [immigration](#), [health care](#), reproductive rights and [environmental protection](#).

## **LWVUS Positions Update**

The position statement on the constitutional convention process, based on the national study done last fall in which NH League members participated, is on the Positions page of our LWVNH.org website.

<http://lwvnh.org/Positions.html>

The position statement on Money in Politics, based on the national study done last fall in which NH League members participated, will be released by LWV in Spring 2016.

At Convention 2016, delegates will vote on a concurrence position growing from the Redistricting Committee's work. That committee included our own Nancy Marashio. Thank you, Nancy, for your work on this national committee.

A reminder that all the national League positions and the state League positions can be found on our website on the "Positions" page: <http://lwvnh.org/Positions.html>

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## **Initiative Celebrates Centennial of Women's Right To Vote**

The League of Women Voters US and the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum (SBHM), organizations with roots in the 72 year campaign for women's voting rights, have announced the creation of the 2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative (WVCI), a collaboration commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which added women's right to vote to the U.S. Constitution.

"I am excited that the League of Women Voters, a voter empowerment organization founded by suffragist leaders, is part of launching WVCI," said LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara. "This initiative will help remind us all of the decades of hard work and perseverance it took to win voting rights for women."

The WVCI will be led by a Steering Committee and a larger Task Force, who collectively represent the various segments of the historical women's suffrage movement, contemporary women's organizations and scholars. The group is committed to showing the relevance of that struggle today.

The first project of the WVCI is a slogo contest. The Initiative is inviting individuals and groups to contribute their design skills and creativity to the development of a logo and slogan (slogo) for use by anyone celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The contest, which opened March 30<sup>th</sup>, will accept submissions through June 30, 2016, and a celebrity judge panel will help select the winner in time for an announcement on Women's Equality Day, August 26. Details for the Slogo Contest and WVCI activities can be found on [SBHM's website](#).