



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

[www.LWVNH.org](http://www.LWVNH.org)

4 Park St Room 200  
Concord, NH 03301

**February 2017**

***A quickie League newsletter to let our members know of  
several upcoming events.***

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**Panel Discussion: "Fake News, Tweets, and Facts in our Democracy:  
News – How do we get it? Why do we need it?  
What can we believe? What must we question?"**

*Sponsored by Hopkinton Town Library and co-hosted by  
LWV Greater Capital Area. Open to the Public.*

**Sunday, March 26, 4-5:30 pm, Hopkinton Town Library community room**

Panelists include

**Dan Barrick**, news director for NH Public Radio,

**John Gfroerer**, producer of over 40 documentaries, many on political topics,

**John Greabe Esq.**, UNH School of Law professor with a specialty in constitutional law,

**Ralph Jimenez**, editorial writer for the Concord Monitor

Two years before assuming the Presidency **Thomas Jefferson** wrote, “[I am] for freedom of the press, & against all violations of the constitution to silence by force & not by reason the complaints or criticisms, just or unjust, of our citizens against the conduct of their agents.” Jefferson was sometimes the target of the press, but defended it even as an old man when he wrote, “...the only security of all is in a free press. The force of public opinion cannot be resisted, when permitted freely to be expressed. The agitation it produces must be submitted to.”

Today, the “free press” includes social media, websites, television and radio in addition to print publications. Public opinion abounds; agitation abounds. How do we protect our ideals of free expression, our search for truth, and our republic simultaneously?

**This program is free and open to the public.**

Please forgive us for not publishing a full edition of the NHVoter this month. As you know from our emailed legislative alerts and calls to action, we’re keeping very busy in Concord. Thank you for responding so positively to the notices we’ve sent. Your support is very important.

*On the following pages, news of our nearly annual Day at the Legislature (for League members only,) a program on the electoral college and some possible alternative ways to elect the president (at Kendal in Hanover, for Kendal residents only), and the New England League Leadership Conference in April for League members.*

## League Day at the Legislature – Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Join League members and your state board for this action-packed day of attending hearings in the legislature, discussing testimony presented, analyzing the executive sessions that might happen in committees, and seeing for yourself how your state legislature works. Board members will accompany small groups to committee hearings of the groups' choosing.

Over lunch we will debrief, possibly have a guest speaker.

After lunch attendees can opt for a tour of the state house guided by the visitor center staff or participate in an advocacy workshop conducted by League board members.

Cost for this happy event including a lovely catered lunch is \$20, payable at the door. However, **pre-registration is absolutely required** so we can handle logistics. **Limited to 30 League members.** Sorry, we are unable to include non-members this time.

Because we don't yet have the list of committees that will be meeting on this date, and because snowstorms have been occurring mid-week this year, be sure to leave your phone number in case we have to postpone.

**To register:** Email [LWV@kenliz.net](mailto:LWV@kenliz.net), giving your name, town, and phone number. We will return your email with helpful hints about parking and suggest carpools where we can.

**Tentative schedule:** Meet at 4 Park St (office building across the side street from the Capitol) at 9 am for brief explanation and to choose hearings to attend. Leave with your board sherpa for hearings at 9:30. Lunch back at 4 Park St about 12:30 or sooner. Tour of the State House or advocacy workshop at 1:30. Finish by 2:00; go to more hearings if you wish or enjoy downtown Concord before heading home.

Hope to see you there!

**Just for Kendal at Hanover residents:** League of Women Voters NH board members have been invited by UNITE to discuss the electoral college and at least one possible alternative way to elect the President, the National Popular Vote Compact, which League supports. Join us in the Gathering Room at 7:15 pm, Tuesday March 28. Looking forward to seeing many familiar League faces at this event.

## Eleventh annual **New England League Leadership Development Conference**

in Wells, Maine, the weekend of April 7-9th.

This year's theme will be **Making Democracy Work**.

**Due to limited space, this event (aka Quad States) is open to League members only and their spouses.**

### **Tentative Agenda - Schedule Subject to Change**

**Friday evening, April 7** (optional): dinner out and socializing with other League leaders.

#### **Saturday, April 8**

Registration & Welcome, 9:00 - 9:30 am.

Keynote Speaker, 9:30 - 10:15 am. To be announced.

Workshop #1, 10:30 - 12:00 pm. ***Integrity of Journalism***. [John Christie and Naomi Schalit](#), Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting.

John and Naomi are the co-founders of MCPIR. John continues to serve as senior editor for the Center. He is a media executive whose 40-year career includes work in four states as a writer, editor, general manager and publisher for newspapers owned by Tribune Co., Dow Jones and Co. and the Seattle Times Co. Naomi is a senior reporter for the Center. She has written for magazines and newspapers around the country, worked as a columnist for the Maine Times, and for five years was an award-winning reporter and producer at Maine Public Radio.

Lunch & LWVUS Update, 12:00 - 1:00 pm. Included with Registration Fee.

Workshop #2, 1:15 - 2:45 pm. ***Civics Education***. [Tom Kerr-Vanderslice](#), Rhode Island Executive Director for Generation Citizen.

Tom came to Generation Citizen (a civics education program used in several states including MA and RI) in 2012 after working in politics for a number of years. He has worked in public and private lobbying in Washington, D.C. and in Rhode Island for good government organizations, education nonprofits and healthcare institutions. He also served as the Finance and Campaign Director for a Maryland state campaign for Comptroller.

Workshop #3, 3:00 - 4:30 pm. ***Distrust of American Institutions***. [Dan Shea](#), Professor of Government at Colby College and Director of the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement.

The author or editor of more than 15 books and dozens of articles/chapters on the American political process, Dan Shea continues to pursue research on campaigns and elections, the dynamics of the party system, the changing nature of the presidency, the politics of scandal, and grassroots political activism. In 2012 he authored *Let's Vote: The Essentials of the American Electoral Process*, and coedited *Can We Talk? The Rise of Rude, Nasty, Stubborn Politics*.

We close on Saturday with our annual benefit raffle, with prizes contributed by League members. Prizes will be on display and tickets will be available on Saturday, \$5 each or five for \$20. Proceeds

from the raffle support this and future New England League Leadership conferences.

## **Sunday, April 9**

Until 9:00 am. Breakfast is included with your hotel room reservation.

Workshop #4, 9:00 - 10:30 am. ***Hillbilly Elegy*** By J. D. Vance. Book discussion led by Barbara McDade. Read the book in preparation, if you wish, and join the discussion.

Barbara is a League leader in Bangor, Maine, and member of the LWVME state board. Since 1991, she has been executive director of the Bangor Public Library and serves on the Maine Library Commission, in addition to other civic engagements.

Following the book discussion, we will have an update on national League work and also share the good work we've been doing in state Leagues. Don't leave early -- this could be the best part.

Wrap-up and adjourn, 10:30 - 11:00 am.

**Register** (LWVME Education Fund is acting as our treasurer)

[http://www.lwvme.org/donate\\_form.html](http://www.lwvme.org/donate_form.html)

- **Register online using a credit card or PayPal at above link**
  - Enter amount as **\$25.00**.
  - Immediately below the amount, add Special Instruction to Seller: "**Leadership Conference.**"
  - Proceed with Paypal or credit card information.
- **Or, register by mail using a check.**

Fill out and return the form on the next page with a check for \$25, payable to the LWVME Education Fund. Note "Leadership Conference" in the memo field. Send to:

LWVME Education Fund  
PO Box 863,  
Augusta, ME 04332

- **Make your own hotel reservation if you'll be staying overnight.**
  - at Hampton Inn & Suites, 900 Post Road, Wells, Maine 04090 (207-646-0555).
  - Be sure to say you are with the League of Women Voters and the room rate will be \$94 plus tax. Find a roommate to share, and the cost will be around \$50 per person. Our block of rooms will be held until April 1, but the rate will be in effect until the event.
  - Thanks to a grant, LWVNH Education Fund will reimburse LWVNH members attendees up to \$50 toward the room rate.
  - Breakfast is included in the room rate. Saturday lunch is included in your registration fee. We will have dinner together in small groups at area restaurants on Saturday.

**Registration form for New England League Leadership Conference, April 7-9, 2017**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

To help us plan, please check your intentions below:

I plan to attend both Saturday and Sunday

I plan to attend only Saturday

I will not be staying at the hotel

I plan to stay at the Hampton Inn & Suites

I have already made my room reservation

I still need to make my own reservation

I plan to arrive in time for the Friday evening optional dinner and socializing.

Fill out and return this form **with a check for \$25**, payable to the **LWVME Education Fund**.

Note "Leadership Conference" in the memo field on the check.

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