



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
NEW HAMPSHIRE

www.LWVNH.org

4 Park St Room 200
Concord, NH 03301

N H Voter – March 2018 newsletter of LWVNH

Many events coming up in the next two months that will be of interest to League members, whether you wish to participate in person or follow along in the news and social media. Also two Meet the League events, for potential members to learn more about us: March 20 in the Mt. Washington Valley and March 25 in Nashua. See p. 3 for more details and spread the word to friends. Here's what's happening:

Saturday, March 24:

Citizen Action Against Gerrymandering — A Forum

Saturday, **March 24**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sweeney Hall, NH Technical Institute; 31 College Drive, Concord, NH 03301

(Take exit 1 from Rte 393, follow signs to NHTI)

The right to vote is among the most fundamental of our constitutional rights. However, partisan gerrymandering has created an electoral system that allows politicians to choose their voters, rather than voters choosing their politicians. Both Republican and Democratic legislators have engaged in gerrymandering, drawing lines that effectively give more weight to the voters of one party than the other. As a result, our system no longer operates according to the principle of "one person, one vote," and our state legislatures and Congress do not fairly and honestly represent the electorate. It is time to restore one person, one vote in our state. The New Hampshire legislature will once again draw district lines in 2021. New Hampshire's voters must demand that candidates running for the legislature in 2018 and 2020 commit to support fair, non-partisan redistricting.

The sponsors are pleased to announce a forum for New Hampshire citizens to learn about action they can take to restore honest districting in this state. The afternoon begins with a keynote speech by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Or.), an advocate for independent, citizen-led redistricting. The program includes panels addressing national and state redistricting issues, featuring political, legal, and historical perspectives. The program will conclude with a panel focused on political organization and action as we head into the 2018 election season.

Sponsors: Capital Coalition, Open Democracy, New Hampshire Progress Alliance, America Votes New Hampshire, Granite State Progress.

The Program:

1:00 - 1:05 — Welcome.

1:05 - 1:25 — Keynote Address, Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Or.)

1:25 - 2:25 — National Landscape, with Ruth Greenwood and John Bisognano. Moderated by Amy Vorenberg.

2:25 - 2:40 — Break.

2:40 - 3:40 — New Hampshire Challenge, with Paul Twomey, Andru Volinsky, Dan Feltes. Moderated by Liz Tentarelli.

3:50 - 4:50 — Call to Action, with Olivia Zink, Michael O'Brien, Jerry Knirk, Louise P. Spencer. Moderated by Ruth Greenwood.

4:50 - 5:00 — Closing Remarks.

Free Tickets, but going fast! Register online.

RSVP: <https://march24citizenaction.eventbrite.com/>

Speakers and Moderators:

Senator Jeff Merkley (D. Oregon). Merkley has been a leader in trying to reform the rules of the Senate, including those concerning filibuster. He is also a staunch advocate of districting reform.

Ruth Greenwood, Senior Legal Counsel, Voting and Redistricting, Campaign Legal Center. Ruth litigates a wide variety of redistricting cases, most recently *Whitford v. Gill* (Wisconsin) before the U.S. Supreme Court.

John Bisognano, Director of Campaigns and Outreach, National Democratic Redistricting Committee, a newly formed organization chaired by former Attorney General Eric Holder. John is a veteran of the Obama White House and was New Hampshire 2016 Coordinated Campaign Director.

Paul Twomey, Election law attorney and former New Hampshire House Legal Counsel. Paul is currently representing the League of Women Voters in the Senate Bill 3 case.

Andru Volinsky, Executive Councilor, District 15.

Dan Feltes, New Hampshire State Senator, District 15.

Liz Tentarelli (Moderator), President, League of Women Voters New Hampshire .

Olivia Zink, Executive Director, Open Democracy.

Michael O'Brien, Political Director, America Votes New Hampshire.

Jerry Knirk, New Hampshire State Representative, District 3-Carroll.

Louise P. Spencer, Co-Founder, Kent Street Coalition.

Amy Vorenberg (Moderator), Professor of Law, University of NH School of Law.

Also Saturday, March 24.

Unfortunately the same day as above; choices must be made.

"March for Our Lives" events Saturday, March 24, around the country:

Concord, at the State House, 10-3

Portsmouth, at Market Square, noon to 5 pm

Boston Common, noon to 5 pm

Washington DC. Gather at 10 am; march on Pennsylvania Ave between 3rd & 12th Sts NW.

In their Mission Statement, march organizers write:

“School safety is not a political issue. There cannot be two sides to doing everything in our power to ensure the lives and futures of children who are at risk of dying when they should be learning, playing, and growing. **The mission and focus of March For Our Lives is to demand that a comprehensive and effective bill be immediately brought before Congress to address these gun issues.**”

Tuesday, March 20, 2:30 pm at Conway Public Library: **Meet the League**. Meet a group of people from towns in the **Mt. Washington Valley** interested in forming a League unit in the area. No commitment needed; just come and learn more. Men and women welcome to attend and, if interested, to join the League. Report will be presented on possibility of doing a voter registration event at the high school. Also a report on voter registration issues in NH.

Sunday, March 25, 2:30-3:30 pm at Nashua Library: **Meet the League**. For potential members to meet current members from the **greater Nashua area**, learn more about what League does. This is an existing local unit that has already done candidate forums and other League activities. Come find out more and consider joining.

Tuesday, March 27, Tentative, Day at the Legislature in Concord.

This one is always tricky, but when it works, it's terrific! It's how we got clued in to do our study of women incarcerated in 2009.

The trick is...we don't know for sure until the Friday before which committees will meet, which bills will be heard. Some years we have had to cancel for lack of interesting opportunities.

Therefore, if you would like to join League board members for a morning of sitting in on various committee hearings, followed by a debriefing over lunch in the legislative cafeteria, with a short tour of the State House after for those who wish, you must let us know in advance. We'll email you on Friday afternoon whether we are a "go" or not, and send details about parking and meeting places.

Indicate your interest by email please: lwnnewhampshire@gmail.com

Weekend of April 7-8, in Wells, Maine:

New England League Leadership Conference (formerly called Quad States Conference)

Same place: Hampton Inn and Suites in Wells, Maine.

This is the League's nearly annual conference for League members from NH, VT, ME, RI, and sometimes MA and CT. The focus this year is on "**Making Democracy Work: Learning From Each Other.**" It's always an interesting time to meet members from other states.

The keynote speaker is the VT Secretary of State, incoming chair of the national association of Secretaries of State.

Workshops on Saturday include sharing of ideas on working within the League (local and state and national levels) and also working with the many citizen action groups that have sprung up, including youth groups.

Sunday morning will include a discussion of the national League's "Transformation Journey" hosted by national board member Toni Zimmer. Strongly recommended for anyone planning to go to LWV Convention in June.

Optional Sunday morning book discussion over breakfast: Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict by Donna Hicks, with Barbara Dade facilitating.

Cost for the event is \$25, which includes Saturday lunch and snacks. A block of rooms has been reserved for League at a special price, and the LWVNH Education Fund will reimburse each NH member \$50 if they stay overnight. Breakfast is included with the room rate. Saturday dinner will be in groups at area restaurants at our own expense.

For more on the schedule, how to register and pay, go to <http://www.lwvme.org/Quad.html> (LWV Maine's Education Fund is acting as our treasurer and registrar. You can pay online or download a form and mail check to LWVME Ed Fund.)

Make your room reservation by phone and tell them you want the special League of Women Voters rate (\$99 plus tax). 207-646-0555 We can probably link you with another League member as a roommate, in which case your room will be practically free after the LWVNH Education Fund reimbursement. Email us at lwvnewhampshire@gmail.com if you want a roommate.

Saturday, May 19, at Hopkinton Town Library's meeting room:

Our second Education Conference.

Details will be in the April NHVoter, but save the date!

An opportunity for civic involvement from the comfort of your computer desk:

From Linda Miller, Director of Network Journalism and Inclusion for American Public Media. *

[We believe] that diverse perspectives, curiosity, and careful listening can lead to more relevant journalism.

These same elements are essential for civic dialogue, something that has become more elusive as the country's politics have become more divisive.

Which is why we're excited to tell you about a bold, new effort to create a conversation space for women with different views, experiences and backgrounds, and to [invite you to sign up!](#)

It's called [*The Many: A Conversation across Divides*](#), and here's how it works.

[Spaceship Media](#) is inviting women to join a closed Facebook group, which will grow over time. *The Many* will be closely moderated to support participants in having productive experiences. Organizers will partner with media organizations and reporters to provide information into the group and also tell stories out of it.

The Many will run until the mid-term elections in November 2018, allowing women to explore their curiosity, concerns and hopes for the future over a sustained period of time.

Cool, right? Get started by [filling out this form](#), then spread the word to women you know!

* What is the Public Insight Network®?

American Public Media's Public Insight Network® (PIN®) is a platform for connecting trusted journalists with knowledgeable sources. Through PIN®, people around the world share what they know to inform reporting by PIN® partner newsrooms, making news coverage more relevant, diverse, transparent and trustworthy.

Legislative Glossary:

For those who don't hang out in the LOB as much as others, here are some terms that may leave you wondering where to go, with accompanying explanation:

LOB is the Legislative Office Building. It's the building behind and across State Street from the Capitol. That's where most House and some Senate committees hold their meetings and hearings on bills.

The **State House** is the Capitol building. It's beautiful, and if you have a chance, take a tour. The visitor center, to the right as you enter, is the place to start. The State House also includes **Representatives Hall**, with its 3rd floor gallery for the public when the House is in session. The 400 numbered seats on the main floor are assigned to the representatives, and each has a set of buttons to record votes. Sometimes a committee hearing is expected to be so well attended by the public that it is moved to Representatives Hall. Then the public are allowed to sit in the representatives' seats (but pushing the buttons accomplishes nothing.) Entrance is from the second floor near the South elevator.

The Governor's office, the Secretary of State's office where candidates file for office, and the Executive Council chamber are all in the State House, as are some of the state senators' offices. Other senators have office space in the LOB. Representatives just get lockers.

The **cafeteria** is in the basement of the State House, and it serves good breakfasts and lunches. It is open to the public, so go to a hearing in the morning, get some lunch and maybe schmooze with your representative, then enjoy another hearing in the afternoon.

If it's raining or icy, you may want to take the **tunnel** connecting the LOB and the State House basements.

Interesting tidbit, from a 10 year study done by MIT: **Fake news travels 6 times faster than factual news.** * Well, what does that say about our world? And it's not necessarily the bots doing the fake news spreading; it's people. Also reported recently that most people read only the first line or so of a tweet before re-tweeting it. Same thing with Facebook posts. Good grief!

*reported in The Atlantic, March 8, 2018.