



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
NEW HAMPSHIRE

www.LWVNH.org

4 Park St Room 200
Concord, NH 03301

NH VOTER March 2017

Once again we ask our members to excuse the informality of this NH Voter, our LWVNH newsletter. We want to alert you to some upcoming events, but are so busy with our advocacy work in the legislature and outreach that we just haven't found time to write formal articles. When the crunch of the NH Legislative Session eases, we'll catch you up on all we are doing, in our standard format.

For our members who use email, you have been receiving near-weekly Legislative Alerts or Calls to Action about bills in the NH Legislature. Thank you to all who have responded by calling or emailing your own representative(s) and state senators or by turning out for the big SB3 hearing earlier this month. Your input makes a difference. We may not come out on the winning side of each issue, but our elected officials know we are paying attention!

A "Save the Date" notice, and we do hope many of our League members will attend:

Saturday, June 3, in Hopkinton—the LWV New Hampshire biennial convention. We have some business to do together (pass a budget, elect a board and officers), but we also will discuss the work of the League on various fronts. A proposal from your state board to do a study of education issues will be presented; details are being worked out. Local units and members from around the state will be able to participate in the study and consensus process, if you vote to authorize the study. To get us going, the guest speaker at Convention will be the new NH Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut, who will share with us his vision and take our questions about our concerns. Should be exciting! Details to sign up will be in the next NHVoter.

Other events coming up:

Sunday, March 26, in Hopkinton—panel discussion on "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?" 4-5:30 pm at Hopkinton Town Library. Free and open to the public.

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; and Ralph Jimenez, editorial writer for the Concord Monitor. Sponsored by Hopkinton Town Library and co-hosted by LWV Greater Capital Area.

Saturday, April 1, in Concord—Voting Rights March and Rally. The League is part of a voting rights coalition, and we have worked together this session to preserve voting rights and to modernize some election processes. This march and rally will focus public attention on many of the issues. If you wish to march (1.2 miles from Concord High School to the State House) and/or attend the rally, please sign up at the new event Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/733947090105808/> The march sets off at 1 pm, the rally is at 2 pm, and for those interested there will be free advocacy workshops at 3 pm at 4 Park St. offices. We've also heard there will be free Ben and Jerry's ice cream at the rally—we're hoping for suitable weather.

Thursday, April 6, at Hancock Town Library—program on how NH government works, how bills become law, how the public can give input to elected officials—bring your questions and League board members will attempt to answer them. Hosted by the Hancock Town Library and open to all.

Sat. & Sun, April 8-9, at Wells, Maine—New England League Leadership Conference. This nearly annual event features guest speakers and lots of interaction with the Leagues from NH, VT, ME, RI,

and MA. Go to http://lwvnh.org/files/leadership_conf_reg.pdf for the details and sign-up information.

Saturday, April 22, in Portsmouth (1 pm, Market Square) and in Concord (9 am, State House)-- Earth Day March for Science. Visit the Facebook page as plans develop.

<https://www.facebook.com/nhmarchforscience/> These are sister marches to the Earth Day event in DC.

Saturday, April 29, in Concord—People’s Climate Rally, organized by the Sierra Club. 9 to noon, State House Lawn, speakers to be announced. Details coming and sign-up on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/386971208356778/> This is a sister march to the April 29 Climate Change demonstration in DC.

What’s happening in local League units:

Please remember that any League members in NH may attend any local League events.

Nashua LWVNH Members will meet Tuesday, March 21st, 7:00PM, at the mayor's office, second floor of Nashua City Hall. They'll meet briefly, and then attend the board of aldermen's budget meeting as observers, which starts at 7:30. This is a great opportunity to see first hand how Nashua’s city functions, or doesn't, at the budget-making level. Sure to be both informative and exciting. (Observer Corps are traditional League structures, getting information for future action by attending and taking notes during public meetings. Can be done at the local, state, or national level, and indeed many members see this as their favorite way to participate in League.)

LWV Upper Valley may have dissolved as a local League, but for the many members past & present residing at Kendal in Hanover, please come to the UNITE presentation on Tuesday, March 28, 7:15 at the Gathering Room: “Electing a President--Popular Vote or Electoral College?” Winning the presidential election without winning the popular vote has only occurred five times in the nation's history, but twice in the past 16 years. LWVNH board members are the guest speakers. Come learn about the League's study of the electoral college and the position on which we can advocate for change. The National Popular Vote Compact is one way to achieve the goal of direct popular vote to elect our President. Sorry, but this event is only for Kendal residents, as it is hosted by UNITE at Kendal.

Peterborough Area unit just getting started: On Thursday, April 13, 7 pm at Peterborough Library members and prospective members will meet with LWVNH board members to learn more about League, discuss activities they may wish to pursue as a unit, and take the first steps toward becoming a local League unit. Spread the word; bring a friend who might be interested.

LWV Kearsarge/Sunapee Area will host its annual “Meet Your Legislators” evening at 7 pm on Wed., May 17, at Tracy Library, New London. State representatives and state senators will be invited to report on what their committees have been working on at the State House and share their perspectives on important bills this session. The public is invited, and the Q&A is always lively and frank.

LWV Kearsarge/Sunapee Area annual meeting and luncheon—Tues. June 6, 11:30-2:30, Lake Sunapee Country Club in New London. Join League members and guests for a delicious lunch and hear guest speaker Andrew Smith, UNH professor and director of the survey center there. Will he discuss why the polls leading up to the Presidential election were so wrong? Maybe. Tentative topic is "Demographic Change and Electoral Realignment in NH." Short business meeting to elect board members and approve a budget, but also time to socialize. Details will be announced in May.

“Know Your Elected Officials” brochure for the Kearsarge/Sunapee area has been updated by the LWV Kearsarge/Sunapee Area. They are in town offices and libraries (look for the yellow brochures). It is also on the Publications page of LWVNH.org as a pdf , if it’s easier to print out a copy.

New this year are three Elected Officials brochures prepared by the LWV Greater Capital Area for the towns in their area. Call Peg Fargo for copies. Soon to be posted on our Publications page as well.