

NH Voter, the newsletter of LWVNH

May 2019

The League and the fight against gerrymandering:

In the past couple of months, the League of Women Voters in both Ohio and Michigan won the SCOTUS lawsuits they brought against their states for unfair districting maps. In Ohio the ruling found that the current congressional map is a “partisan gerrymander [that] was intentional and effective and that no legitimate justification accounts for its extremity.” In Michigan one of the lawyers for the League said, ““We presented evidence showing a clear intent by the state legislature to dilute the power of voters and draw themselves into safe districts.” Both states are now under court order to create new districts before the 2020 elections, and then of course will have to do that again after the 2020 census results come in.

While here in NH, League and our many voting rights colleagues are cheered by the first bi-partisan action in the legislature to create an independent redistricting commission, in time for 2021 when the required new plans to be drawn. Weekly conference calls among League and our partner organizations in the Campaign for NH Voting Rights, ongoing advice from the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, intense work at amending the proposed HB706 in both the House and the Senate Election Law Committees in order to get votes from both parties—all of this work has been going on since last fall, and the golden end is in sight! Just passed the Senate on a voice vote, no dissenters! 5/23/19. Thank you, Reps & Senators!



Report from Convention:

On Saturday, May 18, League members met in Baker Library in Bow to elect officers (see below), adopt a two-year budget, give advice to the board and ask questions of us too. In addition we learned more about public education from our excellent panelists. A link to the audio recording of their presentation is on the Education Study page of our website, or go directly to Youtu.be for the audio file: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIRm4WNTFQU&feature=youtu.be> After lunch, League member and state Representative Susan Almy helped us understand the state budget process. Her excellent handout is on the Publications page of our website. Thank you to all who came, and especially to the board members who helped make this happen.

Officers and directors for 2019-2021 are as follow:

Officers:

President –	Liz Tentarelli
Vice-President –	Sylvia Gale
Secretary –	Julia King
Treasurer –	Shauna Ferguson

Directors:

Janet Doyle, Hope Driscoll, Sally Embley, Edith Frank, Nancy Marashio. Sara McNeil, Janet Ward

Nominating Committee: Nancy Marashio, Kate Welsh (before the 2021 convention the state board will appoint a member from each local unit that's not already represented to the nominating committee.)

League members may reach us via the Contact Us page of LWVNH.org

Upcoming events: Local Leagues and units continue to hold meetings open to all members and in some cases to the public as well. Check our Calendar page on LWVNH.org to get details. Your local League should also be contacting you with notice of events.

For those who use Facebook, do look for us there. Our pages are public. But if you wish join the League of Women Voters NH Members Forum, ask to join, and we'll approve you after checking our member lists. It is a members only site.

Some highlights in the next month:

May 29: Tracy Library, New London. **Meet Your Legislators.** Find out what's happening in the NH Legislature from your state reps and senators representing the Kearsarge/Sunapee Area. They will give short presentations on their areas of particular interest, then take questions and comments from the public. Representatives and Senators representing these towns have been invited: Bradford, Grantham, Henniker, New London, Newbury, Newport, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner, and Wilmot Organized and moderated by League of Women Voters Kearsarge/Sunapee Area. Free and open to the public.

June 3: North Conway community center. **Meet Your Legislators from Mt. Washington Valley.** Learn what's happening this year in the State House, what issues each legislator has dealt with in committee. Bring your questions and comments for a conversation with your state representatives from the Mt Washington Valley. Public welcome. Organized by LWVNH-MWV unit.

June 12: Annual meeting, luncheon, and guest speaker for the **LWV Kearsarge/Sunapee Area** is at the Lake Sunapee Country Club. Guest speaker will be the Honorable Tina Nadeau, Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Superior Court. Her topic will be "Drug Court, Where Justice and Treatment Meet." Learn about an alternative to incarceration for criminal justice involved individuals who suffer from substance use disorder.

This is a luncheon event, followed by Justice Nadeau's talk and a short business meeting to elect officers and adopt a budget. Advance reservations and payment of \$40 required. Please send your check to LWVKS, POBox 660, New London NH 03255 to arrive before June 3. Indicate your choice of lunch entree: chicken paillard, mushroom ravioli, or roasted salmon. All League members and their guests welcome.

June 19: NH Education Funding 101 at Kearsarge Regional Middle School, 32 Gile Pond Rd, North Sutton, NH 03260 . Begins at 6 pm. Andru Volinsky and John Tobin will explain how school funding works in NH, how it operates unfairly, and possible solutions. Public is invited. Hosted by Kearsarge Regional School Board. For additional such presentations around the state, check the ANHPE.org website for dates & places.

CONCORD — Officials announced the dates for a two-week bench trial over the 2017 revision to state voter registration laws known as Senate Bill 3. The bench trial will take place in Hillsborough County Superior Court in Manchester from Sept. 3-6 and Sept. 9-13.

Last fall, Judge Kenneth Brown issued an injunction to prevent the law from going into effect, but the Supreme Court quickly overruled him, saying it would cause confusion so close to the election. The injunction went into effect the day after the November election. Brown has since retired, and the case is currently with Judge David Anderson, a nominee of former Gov. Maggie Hassan.

The law, opposed by Democrats and the League of Women Voters, establishes new procedures for voter registration within 30 days of an election or on Election Day. It requires would-be voters to provide proof of residency. If people trying to register don't have the right documents, they have up to 30 days to produce them or they will face penalties for voter fraud including a fine of up to \$5,000 and a year in jail.

Sad news:

On Mother's Day, May 12, 2019, **Margery Bostrom** passed away, just a month before her 94th birthday. Margery had been a member and also long-time board member of LWV Kearsarge/Sunapee Area. Her caring spirit and enthusiasm for new ideas were an inspiration to us all. In 2005 or so LWVKS participated in the New London "Festival of Trees" and Margery was one of the League "elves" busily making decorations and then putting them on the tree. A petite woman, Margery could reach only the lower branches to decorate, commenting that real elves must have the same problem. In 2009-2011 she served on our statewide study of women incarcerated issues and went on nearly all the "field trips" to the women's prison and the county houses of correction.



Margery had lived at Eastman in Grantham since 1992, serving on various town and Eastman boards. In 2017 Margery's family insisted she move closer to them, to Westerly RI. While we have not seen Margery since she left, she is always in our hearts and will be missed. A memorial service is being planned for July 14 at Eastman.

(If I may tell a personal story from several years ago. Margery and I were on our way to a League meeting. She told me a neighbor had stopped and insisted on helping her clear the snow from her car. She was 90 or 91 at the time and had long had back problems. "I could do it myself," she told me, "but I realized that it was important to my neighbor to know that I was safe and that he could help me. So I gave him the brush and said thank you." I thought, what a wise way to look at getting older. *Liz T.*)

On April 7, 2019, **Lillian Healey Bolton Chandler** passed away at the age of 87. Beginning with the 1960 presidential campaign of John F. Kennedy, Lillian involved herself in politics at the state and national level for many years, including as chair of the Muskie for President campaign in Bedford. Lillian was treasurer of the Manchester League of Women Voters years ago and also the auditor for League of Women Voters NH. She also served on the Bedford Budget Committee, the Spinnaker Cove Yacht Club, and held many offices in PTA and youth sports organizations. Our condolences to her family.

Another installment of our women who made a difference, this time not New Hampshire centric:

Madam C.J. Walker 1867-1919

From online source: Debra Michals. "Madam C. J. Walker." National Women's History Museum, 2015.



Entrepreneur, philanthropist, and activist, Madam C.J. Walker was born in poverty in the South to former slaves. Orphaned at age seven, married at 14, widowed by 20, she eventually moved to Missouri where she was inspired by black community leaders.

In 1904 she began using "The Great Wonderful Hair Grower," made by African American businesswoman Annie Turbo Malone, and joined Malone's team of black women sales agents. The following year she moved to Denver, married again, and with little more than \$1 launched her own line of black hair care products. It was a success. She eventually employed 40,000 people and became a millionaire.

She used her position and wealth to advocate for the advancement of black Americans and for an end to lynching and contributed to relevant charities, particularly education. She died before being able to vote.

Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards (1842 - 1911)

Adapted from Nancy DuVergne Smith *MIT Alumni Association*



MIT's first female graduate and faculty member and a pioneer in water quality, nutritional safety, and ecology.

Richards earned an undergraduate degree at Vassar College in 1870. Later that year, she was admitted to MIT as a special student of chemistry. When she graduated in 1873, she was already an established water scientist. Two years later she married another MIT alum.

In 1876 Ellen Swallow Richards raised money to launch the MIT Women's Laboratory, where she taught chemical analysis, industrial chemistry, mineralogy, and biology to women. That lab trained 500 students, then closed in 1883 when women became part of the regular student body.

Richards was appointed an instructor in sanitary chemistry, a post she held until her death. In 1887, Massachusetts commissioned MIT's new sanitary chemistry lab to survey the state's drinking water, the first such study in the country. Richards' research also included food contamination studies. Her findings led Massachusetts to pass its first food and drug safety acts.

Throughout her life, Richards remained committed to women's education. In addition to her work in the Women's Laboratory, Richards taught a correspondence course for women by sending them microscopes, specimens, and lessons to examine their home environments. In 1882, she co-founded a group supporting women's education, which grew into today's American Association of University Women.

Ellen Richards died in 1911 before being able to vote. *Photo previous page courtesy of MIT Museum.*

Amelia Bloomer (1818-1894)

Adapted from Norwood, Arlisha. "Amelia Bloomer." National Women's History Museum. 2017.

Perhaps Bloomer's greatest claim to fame, beyond her campaigns for more healthful and less restrictive styles of women's clothing, was in 1851, when Bloomer introduced Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Susan B. Anthony, who became suffrage's Dynamic Duo.

As a young wife, Bloomer moved to Seneca Falls NY, where she became active politically and socially. She volunteered with the local temperance society. *"Noticing his wife's fervor for social reform, [her husband] encouraged her to use writing as an outlet. As a result, she started a column which covered a plethora of topics."*

In 1848, Bloomer went to the first Women's Rights Convention, held in her home town. The next year she created *The Lily*, a newspaper about and for women, mostly addressed to the temperance movement. But after meeting suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Bloomer also included articles about the women's rights movement. After a move to Iowa, she continued her temperance and suffrage work, and served as the President of the Iowa Suffrage Association from 1871-1873.

Her death in 1894 was well before World War I changed Americans' attitudes towards the role of women and the justice of women's suffrage. She never voted.

