



NH Voter

League of Women Voters New Hampshire

website: LWVNH.org

October 2017

LWVNH board:

Liz Tentarelli, President
763-9296 LWV@kenliz.net

Gwen Mikailov, Vice-President
320-7770 mikailov@comcast.net

Mary Perry, Treasurer &
Greater Capital Area, President
648-2488 marybperry@tds.net

Janet Doyle 802-598-8760
doyle.janet.m@gmail.com

Sherry Dutzy 557-5599
sdutzy@myfairpoint.net

Sally Embley 456-2315
scembley@gmail.com

June Frazer 228-0048
junemf@comcast.net

Nancy Marashio 763-4163
nancymarashio@myfairpoint.net

Local Leagues:
LWV Kearsarge/Sunapee area
patrodgers2000@yahoo.com

Greater Nashua LWVNH unit
LWVGreaterNashua@gmail.com

Seacoast LWVNH unit
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1188405247870949/?fref=nf>

PeterboroughPlus LWVNH unit
LWVpboroplus@gmail.com

Off-board positions:
Mary Davies, Educ. Fund treasurer
228-6312
marbob75@yahoo

Kate McKibbin, NHVoter Editor
526-4540
kmckibbin@comcast.net

**League's Conference on NH Public Education
Hopkinton Library Community Room
Saturday, November 4, from 9:15 AM to 2:30 PM.
61Houston Dr., Contoocook NH 03229**

9:15 Registration and Coffee

9:30 Welcome: Liz Tentarelli, president, NH League of Women Voters

9:35 A Brief History of New Hampshire Public Education: Janet Ward and
Elissa Barr

10:00 Common Core, PACE, ESSA: Their Roles in NH Public Education:
Dr. Mark Joyce, Executive Director of the NH
School Administrators Assn, 1996-2016.

11:15 Break

11:30 Claremont I & II: John Tobin, Esq.

Mr. Tobin was one of the lawyers representing Claremont
in these landmark school funding cases in 1993 and 1997.

12:15 Lunch

12:45 State Funding Formulas, Adequacy, and Current Legislative Initiatives:

NH Rep. Rick Ladd (R Grafton 4) and NH

Rep. Mel Myler (D Merrimack 10)

2:15 Next Steps for the League: Liz Tentarelli

This event is for League members only. Advance registration is required.

Email LWV@kenliz.net by Nov. 1, please. Or phone the League office and
leave your name and a clear message: 225-5344

Morning coffee with snacks and lunch will be served. Cost for the event is
\$15, payable at the door.

Liz Tentarelli, President

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Lawsuit update October 2017

As members know, LWVNH has opposed Senate Bill 3 since it was introduced. This bill is an attempt to make it harder for some people to vote in New Hampshire. The bill makes the voter registration process more difficult, particularly for people who move frequently or have informal housing arrangements without leases or deeds.

We filed a lawsuit against the NH Secretary of State and the Attorney General challenging the constitutionality of the law. We also filed an injunction to halt implementation of the new requirements while the case moves forward. Co-plaintiffs were two college students and recent college grad who just moved to NH.

On Sept. 11, 2017, we had a hearing on the preliminary injunction in Hillsborough Superior Court. The judge ruled the next morning that the voter registration procedures under Senate Bill 3 would be used, but no penalties would be assessed for failure to follow through with documents promised but not delivered. He also directed the Secretary of State to make efforts to inform the public about the new requirements. He did not rule on whether LWVNH has standing in this case. That is still to be decided.

There is not much to report since then. By the end of October we should know when the trial itself will be held (perhaps in January?) The Secretary of State has recently posted a 4 pages explanation of the new voter registration requirements on his Elections website. League worries that would-be voters wanting to register will have nearly as much trouble understanding those 4 pages as we did with the original 14-pages bill. If you are advising any new friends or neighbors who are trying to register, tell them to gather the best paperwork they can find to prove their identity, their age and citizenship, and where they live before they go to their town clerks to register.

For details, visit the Elections website http://sos.nh.gov/nhsos_content.aspx?id=8589971181 and see for yourself what the options are to prove where you live.

We’ll keep members updated as the case moves forward.

For our study of education issues in NH, we are preparing a number of fact sheets. Some are already online at LWVNH.org under Education Study. Others will be sent via email to members. The overview below was prepared by a member of the state study steering committee. A more detailed version is on our website.

What is the history of public education in the US and in NH?

Fact Sheet 9/21/17 Janet W. American Public Education: Inspiration, History and Development

-Thomas Jefferson proposed a system of American public education to teach citizens of the United States about their Republic's newly crafted Constitution. He believed that such civic education would equip citizens with the knowledge they would need to be able to protect their new nation against challenges he feared could destroy it, primarily "factions," individuals or groups interested in selfish purposes and not the common good. Factions make republics the "least stable form of government."

-It took about 100 years but finally in the late nineteenth century a system of public education was established which, though locally directed, developed with a common purpose, the instillation of common values critical to a democracy.

-Key events shaped and changed U.S. public education: professional educators became involved in the administration of school systems; more differentiated curriculum was introduced; students were tracked using I.Q. tests with a view to directing students to occupational pathways; resistance to such "social engineering" and a demand for more academic rigor followed. The 1954 Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* decision initiated the integration of public schools, leading to an incipient voucher system in some states for private schools called "segregation academies." The passage of the National Education Defense Act, a response to Russia's 1957 launch of Sputnik, encouraged U.S. students to excel in math and science to counter the Soviet Union's potential domination of the Space Race. Since the 1980s a key aim of U.S. public education has been to prepare a literate workforce for successful competition in the global marketplace.

NH Public Education:

-Like American public education, NH public education was perceived as a community good with individual benefits. During the colonial period the government only required that towns with fifty families must maintain "some kind of schools" through local taxation. Over time state laws were enacted which more clearly recognized that it is in all citizens' common interest to have the state more directly involved in the administration and financial support of public schools. A NH State Board of Education was established in 1919 with a professional educator appointed as Commissioner of Education and as the executive officer of the Board.

-The NH Supreme Court in the 1990s, in two decisions, *Claremont I* and *Claremont II*, ruled that the provision of an adequate education is the constitutional responsibility of the state and that the state must guarantee the funding of an "adequate" education. The state's response to these decisions continues to unfold.

Members & Friends in Peterborough and surrounding area – Save the Date – November 30

The LWVNH PeterboroPlus unit will be hosting its first “Meet Your Elected Officials” event on November 30 at the Jaffrey Civic Center. Event begins at 7 pm with state representatives telling the public about their work in Concord and then taking questions from the audience. Hoping for a great participation of elected officials and members of the public. Spread the word!

Candidate forums for Nashua Municipal Elections.

The LWVNH unit serving the greater Nashua area has partnered with Nashua Public Library and the Nashua Telegraphhold a series of candidate forums in preparation for the municipal elections on Nov. 7. All forums are held at 6:30 pm at the Nashua Library (downstairs), and the public is welcome to attend and to submit written questions. They will be shown oAccess Nashua television within a few days of the actual event, and if all goes according to plan can also be seen at your convenience on the *Access Nashua* website.

Already held on Sept. 27 was the Wards 4, 5 & 6 Board of Aldermen candidates forum.

Coming up are the following forums:

October 19, Board of Aldermen candidates at large

October 25, Board of Aldermen candidates representing wards 7, 8, & 9

October 26, Nashua Board of Education candidates

November 1, Board of Aldermen candidates representing wards 1, 2 & 3

Paying it forward

League just got the following request from the supervisor at Shea Farm (NH’s “halfway house” for women scheduled to be released from prison in the next 9 months):“The women of Shea Farm are asking if anyonehas yarn or fabric they no longer want that can be donated to us. Some of the want to knit or crochet hats and mittens for children at the local Homeless Shelter.”

Some women at Shea Farm leave the property each day to work at jobs in the community or at the nearby state office buildings. Those who have not yet earned that privilege, cook and maintain the house and the vegetable gardens. But many have time on their hands and want to feel productive. How wonderful that they will put their skills to work to help those less fortunate than themselves. That kind of connection with the larger community will help their transition upon release.

If you have extra yarn or cotton fabrics (the kind used in quilting) that you’re able to donate, please email League member Peg Fargo about pickup: Pfargo@hotmail.com