

NH Voter, the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire

October 2021

Note from the president's desk:

Like the rest of you, your state board has been kept busy following state and national political events. That's why this issue of the NH Voter is a few months late.

We hope you have been following the updates about redistricting in our nearly weekly emails. Several of you have already testified in favor of Fair Maps, with specific recommendations for how the state House and Senate districts in your county should be redrawn to eliminate partisan advantage. We all know that gerrymandering doesn't always mean funny shaped districts. It means districts drawn by the party in power to give them an advantage to stay in power. Fair Maps are the remedy to that.

A schedule of county by county public input sessions is on the state League's "Issues/Actions" webpage, along with background information about redistricting. Visit our website for updates on redistricting and other legislative matters, as well as other events and forums.

You Dues Keep Our Work Going:

The League of Women Voters is a member-supported organization. In New Hampshire we are all volunteers. We have no paid staff, but we do have the expenses of a small office, a website, voter information materials and other education material, and sometimes even paid ads on Facebook.

To keep our work going, we need your dues.

This is the one time a year we reach out and ask for your financial help. **Enclosed is a dues renewal form.** You can fill it out and mail with a check, or you can pay your annual dues and renew your membership with a credit card on the "Membership/Donations" page of our website.

And on a personal note from the president and treasurer who process membership renewals: if you can do this before December, it will make our holidays a lot happier. Thanks.

So why do I keep getting emails from the national League asking for donations? you ask.

Good question, one I've asked the national staff. Sometimes those requests look an awful lot like a dues renewal. "Renew your support for League" is the one that really ticked me off.

The national League, of which you are automatically a member when you join a state or local League, receives \$32 of your dues, forwarded by our treasurer once a year. The remaining \$13, plus any additional amount you may donate, stays in New Hampshire for our work.

Because we enter our members in the national League database as required, you get emails from national and they like to ask for donations...frequently. Just the way it is, folks. It is up to you whether to donate to the national League's work, but doing so does not imply or renew membership.

What are the local Leagues up to?

Greater Nashua is going full steam ahead with three candidate forums (via zoom) for the Nashua Board of Aldermen and Board of Education races. Visit our "Candidates Forums" page for details and for the link to the youtube video after each forum. Big thanks to Kate W. and Joanne E. and others for organizing this, and to Kate C. and Edith F. for moderating!

They are also trying to get candidates to post their positions on VOTE411.org which is the national League's voter information website. Check it out.

PeterboroPlus participated in the **Granny D rally** and several members are on the **Open Democracy Teams** working hard on redistricting.

With hopes of building membership to create a **Seacoast** local unit, Sue N. and several other League members had a very colorful and active booth at the Dover Apple Harvest Festival recently. When life allows for safe meetings again, we'll try to have an information session somewhere near the seacoast to explore the requirements for becoming a local unit and the activities people would like to do.

New member Katherine H. in Hampton also organized a booth at the Hampton Festival on October 12 to distribute voting information and membership forms.

On September 15, the **Kearsarge/Sunapee Area local League** invited Kearsarge Regional High School social studies teacher Curtis Roddy to share a **unique approach to the teaching of civics**. With the League's support, Roddy attended a January 2021 zoom conference at the Case Method Institute at the Harvard Business School. Attended by over 200 people from around the country, the conference was hosted by Professor David Moss, a professor of history and economics, whose Case Method offers students a fresh approach to the essential subject of civics. Dr Moss' method has gained the support of the national LWV, which is assisting Dr. Moss in bringing his Case Method to as many high school students as possible.

Rather than lecturing about the Case Method of teaching civics, Mr. Roddy transformed the Sunapee Country Club dining room into his classroom and all of us attendees into his students. The assignment given to each table was to read one page of an actual assignment, a fact-filled account of "Martin Luther King and the Struggle for Black Voting Rights," then select three critical pieces of information to share and discuss. The intensity of the assignment, an account of events in March 1965 in Selma, Alabama, involved an examination of the hard facts surrounding those events as well as a consideration of the ramifications of what transpired on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The Case Method brings civics to life in a way that makes the issues and events examined difficult to minimize or forget.

Curtis Roddy made it clear that his students are learning about civics in a whole new key. His presentation was roundly applauded and very much appreciated.

For more information about the Harvard Case Study Method of teaching civics, visit this website: <https://www.hbs.edu/case-method-project/Pages/default.aspx>

In memory of...

Augusta Prince, at age 102, passed away in August. She was born on June 4, 1919, the day the US Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote. Augusta went on to devote herself for five decades to the work of the League of Women Voters, a direct descendant organization of the women's suffrage movement. Augusta was an active member of the Upper Valley League for many years and served as a mentor about League process to many of us.

Donations to our Education Fund acknowledged:

Several donations have been received by our 501(c)3 arm, the LWVNH Education Fund, in honor of long-time members. They include a donation in memory of Ginny Higgins, who passed away a year ago and was a state League president and board member in the past. Also a donation in honor of "life" member Edith Frank of Nashua. And a donation in honor of the current state president, Liz Tentarelli.

We thank League members and others who support our voter service work with tax deductible donation to the LWVNH Education (same mailing address as the LWVNH; see the letterhead).

Please feel free to email your state board with any questions or concerns:
LWVnewhampshire@gmail.com