



Trying to keep up with the rapidly changing landscape...

Next LWVPA Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be **Thursday, March 9, 2017**, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at **Martin's Point** (331 Veranda St., Portland). All current and potential members are encouraged to attend. Many citizens, both locally and nationally, have newly committed to the League's mission. Here's a [link](#) to a Washington Post article exploring this amazing increase in active membership.

Let's Talk about Civil Discourse

When: March 29, 2017, 5:30 – 7:30 pm **Where:** Westbrook Community Center, Conference Room A, 426 Bridge Street

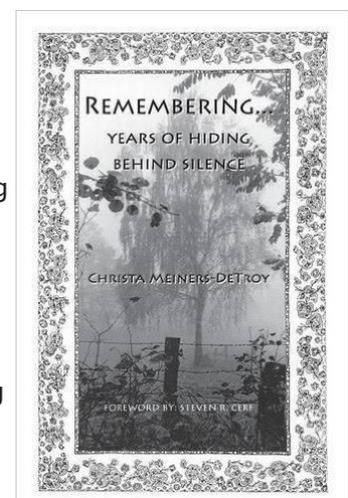
The LWVPA will sponsor and facilitate a Community Conversation about Civil Discourse in Civic Life. We will start with a panel of local civic leaders and take it from there, discussing...

- why a high standard of civility is important,
- how it's fostered,
- some key examples of civility and its opposite in the typical life of a town.

Please join us for this important look at how we can help calm public displays of anger, model skills that encourage learning about what our neighbors believe, and hold a respectful space for disagreement.

Congratulations to Christa DeTroy

LWVPA wishes to congratulate Christa DeTroy (member of the Brunswick-area League of Women Voters) for having waged a life-long campaign for peace and equality and for sharing that experience with others through her 2015 book *Remembering...Years of hiding behind silence*. The book, which documents her childhood growing up in Hitler's Germany, will be discussed by Christa in Brunswick (170 Pennellville Road) at 2:30 pm on Sunday, February 19th. Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP: [\(207\) 622-0256, ext. 6](tel:2076220256) or brunswick@lwvme.org.



Immigration in the Headlines: What is the LWV's Position?

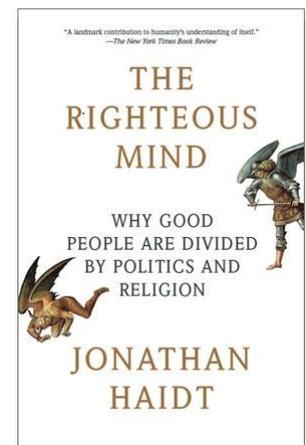
Through its process of national studies, the LWVUS has developed positions on a wide range of issues summarized in the League publication: [Impact on Issues](#). One of those topics is immigration policy—now in the news daily. Chris Carson, LWVUS president, recently reminded us of the basic tenets of the League's position on immigration via a January 31st [press release](#). It is worth taking a look at the full press release (and tracking other [LWVUS](#) and [LWVME](#) press releases), but for those wanting a quick refresher on immigration positions, we note that the League officially (1) opposes deportation of non-criminal immigrants, (2) supports sanctuary activities of local and state governments and (3) opposes all types of discrimination based on religion.

January Book Discussion Increases Environmental Understanding

At noon on Thursday, January 19th, in partnership with the Portland Public Library, the LWVPA and others met to discuss *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert, which provides a clear and comprehensive history of earth's previous mass extinctions and an engaging description of the extraordinarily complex nature of life. Tom Mikulka, environmentalist, biochemist, and husband of League member Kathy, led the discussion. His excellent charts helped us visualize the 5 previous mass extinctions of earth's species (meteor, ice age, etc.) and the 6th, our current one, which is accelerating at an alarming rate, primarily because of human dependence on fossil fuels and our destruction of other species' habitats. We reviewed the advances in alternative energy sources—wind, solar, and tidal—that may slow down the extinction. While these offer some hope, discussion participants left with a sense of distress about the future of our planet.

Next Book Discussion: *The Righteous Mind*

Join us on Thursday, April 20, 2017, when LWVPA and Portland Public Library will team up again, shifting the topic from the environment to improving political discourse. The book is Jonathan Haidt's [The Righteous Mind](#). To whet your appetite, here is a snippet from one review: a "highly readable, highly insightful book... The principal



posture in which one envisions [Haidt] is that of a scrappy, voluble, discerning patriot standing between the warring factions in American politics urging each to see the other's viewpoint, to stop demonizing, bashing, clobbering. For the greater good." —[The Washington Times](#), review by William Murchison.

2017 Voter Registration

The first Naturalization Ceremony of the year was held January 13th at US Citizenship and Immigration Services in South Portland. We registered to vote 15 of the 26 new citizens sworn in that day. Two Portland Area ceremonies are scheduled for March, with volunteers already lined up. If you are interested in helping at future ceremonies, contact Peg Balano at peg.balano@gmail.com.

Welcome to New and Renewing Members: Oct – Dec 2016

During the last quarter of 2016 the following nine individuals joined or renewed their membership in the LWVPA: Libby Bischof, Ann Dalton, Kimberly Golden, David Howe, Norma-Rae Johnson, Kathleen Mikulka, Anne Schink, Janet Silvers, Betsy Smiyh. If you have newly joined or renewed and don't see your name listed, please be patient with our all-volunteer processes! We'll get you next time and are very glad you're a member of our League.

Are you are looking to get more involved? [*Click here for a list of ways to make a difference.*](#)