



## Lots to do in March and April ...

### Upcoming Dates to Note on Your Calendar

Date	Time	Details
3/6 Tues	5 to 7pm	<b>Shauna Shames Talk:</b> The Great (Political) Divide: Why Women, Minorities, and Millennials are Underrepresented in Politics USM's Abromson Center, Room 213
3/8 Thurs	5:30 to 7:30 pm	<b>Open Board Meeting – NEW LOCATION</b> U.S. Customs House, 312 Fore Street (ring bell for entry) Bring your dinner and join us in our planning of upcoming events
3/14 Wed	6 to 8 pm	<b>Respectful Communications Discussion</b> <a href="#">Scarborough High School</a>
4/7-8 Sat/Sun	Sat all day Sun half day	Quad states Annual New England League Conference held in Wells, ME. For more info and to register: <a href="http://lwvme.org/Quad.html">http://lwvme.org/Quad.html</a>

Additional information about LWVPA and LWVME activities is available on the Maine LWV [website](#) calendar.

### Shauna Shames

The LWVME, the Maine Scholars Strategy Network and the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center are working together to bring to Maine [Dr. Shauna Shames](#), Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, for 3 different speaking engagements. On Tuesday, March 6th at 5:00, she will be at USM to talk and answer questions on “The Great (Political) Divide: Why Women, Minorities, and Millennials are Underrepresented in Politics.” Reception will start at 5 with Dr. Shames' talk to begin at 5:30.

## LWVPA Civility Discussions Continue

Two members of the LWVPA will facilitate a 2-hour session on Respectful Communications at Scarborough Adult Education on March 14th from 6–8 pm. This is open to the public. For more information and registration, please go [here](#). We are also available to do workshops with other groups that want to further civility in public discourse and respectful communications. Please contact [Anne Schink](#) for information.

## Looking Ahead to Quad States

[Register now](#) for the League's twelfth annual New England States Leadership Development Conference! Our theme this year is "Learning from Each Other". State League leaders from CT, MA, ME, NH, RI and VT have been developing an agenda for this year that is sure to be the best yet.

We will gather once again at the Hampton Inn, [900 Post Road, Wells, ME](#). Lots more information here: <http://lwwme.org/Quad.html>

## Recap – Keys to the Capitol



It was a great day of learning, networking, and advocacy as we celebrated the League's 98th birthday at the Maine State House! Nearly fifty people registered to learn about our legislative priorities, get tips for effective lobbying,

and connect with their legislators. The Legislature passed a joint resolution honoring the League's work, which was marked by impassioned floor speeches from Reps. Herbig, Hymanson, and Hickman. We were so proud to be there!

Finally, members and friends gathered for an elegant tea at the Blaine House, our beautiful, historic Governor's mansion, and to hear a lively panel discussion on one of the hottest issues of 2018: gerrymandering.

If you missed it this year, we hope you will join us for Keys to the Capitol in 2019!

Pictured above are LWVPA members Peg Balano, Parivash Rohani and Katy Gannon-Janelle at Keys to the Capitol.

## Recap – *Evicted* Book Discussion

Participants in the *Evicted* book discussion at the Portland Public Library brought a wealth of different backgrounds to the discussion of affordable housing at the national, state, and local level. The varied backgrounds of participants offered the group insights into the challenges facing a small scale landlord, a Portland area rent control advocate, and a participant in foreclosure court proceedings as well as personal stories about family, friends, and neighbors dealing with housing issues. The discussion was wide-ranging, but all agreed that Matthew Desmond's book improved our understanding of how important secure housing is to overcoming poverty, joblessness, and food insecurity. Those interested in working on housing issues in the Portland area are encouraged to contact one of the local organizations mentioned on [Desmond's website](http://Desmond's website) <[justshelter.org](http://justshelter.org)> or to email [Kate Sykes](mailto:Kate Sykes), one of the discussion participants who is actively working with concerned Mainers to develop policies that could increase affordable housing in Maine.

## Voter Registration

Senator Susan Collins was the Keynote Speaker at the Presidents Day Naturalization Ceremony at Ocean Gateway in Portland on February 22, 2018.

Sixty-six new citizens from 27 countries were sworn in that day. Our team of seven LWVPA volunteers registered 38 new voters.

School voter registration drives are being scheduled now for this Spring. Please contact [Carol Carpenter](#) if you would like to help register students to vote, and are available during school hours.

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

