



It's Annual Meeting Time...

4th Annual LWVPA Meeting is Next Week

When: Thursday, May 11th 5:30–8pm

Where: Falmouth American Legion Hall, 65 Depot Road

RSVPs are not required, but advance notice is appreciated. If you plan to attend, please click [here](#) and say [yes](#) now!

It's a great chance to meet interesting people, learn about the past year, and look forward to next year. **Jane Field**, Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches, and **Ann Luther**, chair of the LWVME Advocacy Committee, will be our speakers. There will be dinner (dishes to share are welcome) and a raffle to benefit the Emily Farley Fund which helps support great projects and programs (raffle items also welcome). And, who will be the next recipient of the Emily Farley Award? You gotta be there.

If you have questions, or want to join us, please contact Barbara at kaufman.barb@gmail.com

Another Date to Note on Your Calendars

LWVME Biennial State Convention

When: Friday–Saturday, May 19–20, 2017

Where: Brunswick, ME

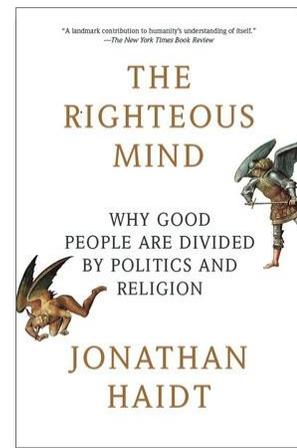
In addition to normal convention business, there will be two panel discussions:

- Political Polarization in America and in Maine with Theda Skocpol and Colin Woodard
- Informed Citizenship in a Fake News World with Judy Meyer and Josh Roiland

Details and registration information available at <http://lwwme.org/Convention.html>

Thought Provoking Discussion: The Righteous Mind

How do people form opinions about welfare? Immigration? Reproductive rights? Are you befuddled by how the “other side” could think so differently? Jonathan Haidt’s [The Righteous Mind](#) provided the basis for a wide-ranging discussion on Thursday, April 20, at the Portland Public Library. Participants in the book discussion, co-sponsored with the LWVPA, shared concerns about polarization in politics and lingering acrimony from the 2016 election season. The conversation, led by Barbara Kaufman and Peg Balano, considered Haidt’s analysis of the different criteria people use to make moral decisions, be they liberals, conservatives or libertarians. Participants shared “aha” moments with Haidt’s own experiences that shifted his thinking, such as cross-cultural encounters or respectful dialog with people of opposing views. Agreeing that there are dangers to living in a social “bubble,” the discussion concluded with ideas about moving beyond one’s comfort zone to break down barriers. A lingering question: how will (or can) our society return to bipartisanship on important political issues?



We thank Elizabeth Miller for sharing these thoughts about the book discussion with us.

2017 Voter Registration

- **Local High Schools:** So far this spring, the LWVPA has helped 53 high school students register to vote! These are students from Portland HS, Maine Girls Academy, and Waynflete. Students who will be 18 by November 7, 2017 (Election Day) are eligible to vote in local spring elections and in state and local elections this coming fall. If your local school would like League help in registering students to vote, please contact Jackie at jaclyn.jacobson@gmail.com
- **US Naturalization Ceremonies:** Since January, we’ve participated in 6 Naturalization Ceremonies, with an average of 23 different countries represented at each ceremony. We have registered 100 of the new citizens to vote, or 45%. If you are interested in helping, contact Peg at peg.balano@gmail.com.

We are also happy to announce that new voters can now sign-up for an email or text reminder to **vote** in November, and this offer has been well received.

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