



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

## THE MAINE VOTER

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### *From the President* – Making Democracy Work

Since the last edition of the Voter, we have held our State Convention where we elected new board members and officers; welcomed a new chapter in the Midcoast area; registered more than 300 new citizens to vote; and continued to experience unprecedented growth and interest in the League.

In case you missed it, May's State Convention was quite the event. We took time to recognize and celebrate all the good work we have done together over the past two years, including two successful citizen initiative campaigns on Clean Elections and Ranked Choice Voting; new publications to help educate voters on issues and the voting process; and the distribution of our 2016 Easy-to-Read Voter Guide to more than 50,000 Mainers statewide. We were excited to present the results of our strategic planning process and vision for the League's future as we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020.

At convention we heard from Harvard's Theda Skocpol, and League favorite, Colin Woodard, author and journalist at the Portland Press Herald, who explored the political polarization of our nation and state. Judy Meyer, Managing Editor at the Sun Journal and Irwin Gratz, Morning Edition Producer at Maine Public Radio, participated in a panel on how to navigate the new reality of "fake news." We also took some time to honor one of our own in establishing the Ann M. Luther Award for Excellence in Volunteerism.

In July, the new Board held a day-long retreat to get to work on implementing our ambitious plan for the next 2 years and beyond. In August, a long and contentious legislative session finally wound down, but a special session remains on the horizon this month to deal with the unresolved issues around several ballot initiatives, including RCV. And, in September, we geared up with more than a dozen voter registration events as part of National Voter Registration Day. There is still so much to do, but there is no doubt that the League is up to the task.

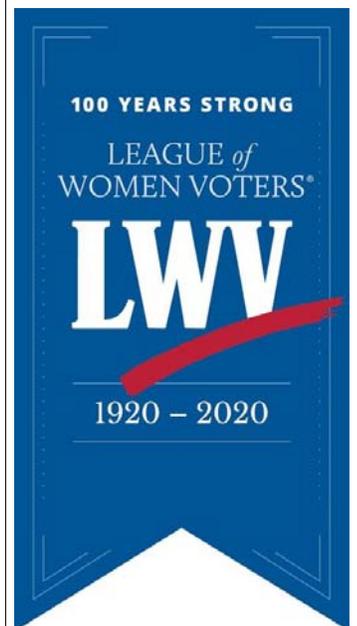
We are excited to welcome new LWVME Board Members Peg Balano and Anne Schink and thank returning members John Brautigam, Helen Hanlon, Barbara Kaufman, Linda Lord, Ann Luther, Barbara McDade, Stephanie Philbrick, Polly Ward, and Cathie Whittenburg for their continued service. We are also excited that Regina Coppens will continue to serve as an Education Fund Trustee and to welcome new Trustee Linda Washburn.

To keep up with all things League, check our website, like us on Facebook, or follow us Twitter. Being a member of the League can make a difference, too, and we welcome your participation and support!

- Jill Ward, LWVME President

### Inside this Issue:

<i>Lobby Corp Update</i>	2
<i>2017 Voter Guide</i>	4
<i>Community Conversations</i>	4
<i>Election Commission</i>	5
<i>Clean Elections</i>	6
<i>Naturalization</i>	7
<i>Study Committee</i>	8
<i>Voter Registration</i>	9
<i>Local League Updates</i>	9
<i>Ann M. Luther Award</i>	11
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	11



# Action Under the Dome: Report of the League Lobby Corps

Ann Luther, Trenton

The League Lobby Corps, also known as the LWVME Advocacy Committee, is an all-volunteer team that works to support the state League's advocacy priorities in the Maine State Legislature:

- Voting Rights
- Clean Elections & Campaign Finance Reform
- Election Methods & Administration, including Ranked Choice Voting
- Ethics & Disclosure
- Freedom of Information
- Good Government



The first regular session of the 128th Legislature convened on December 7, 2016. Statutory adjournment was set for June 21, 2017, but the legislature did not finally adjourn *sine die* until August 2, 2017. Regular Bills and Resolves passed during the First Regular Session become effective 90 days after adjournment, November 1, 2017. As of this writing, it appears that a **Special Session of the Legislature has been called for October 23**. Ranked Choice Voting is one of the issues that may come up during that session, and the League will be there. Stay tuned for more information.

The League Lobby Corps monitored over 80 bills of interest and testified on more than 20. In the final analysis, **all of the bills that we opposed were defeated**, but a number of the bills that we supported also failed passage.

During this session, the League instituted a new weekly email message, "**Action Under the Dome**," that featured news on timely legislative developments on our bills, advance notice of public hearings and work sessions, and action alerts when key votes were coming up. If you haven't been receiving this widely-respected and often-imitated weekly message, make sure we have your current email address by sending a message to the League Lobby Corps at [lwwme@gwi.net](mailto:lwwme@gwi.net). If you are interested in joining the League Lobby Corps, let us know! We welcome new members. Our next in-person meeting will be on October 31. Email us at [lwwme@gwi.net](mailto:lwwme@gwi.net) for details.

Here are the bills where LWVME offered testimony in the 128th Legislature. You can read our testimony online at [http://www.lwwme.org/about\\_action.html](http://www.lwwme.org/about_action.html).

## Campaign Finance Reform

- ⇒ [LD 126](#) An Act To Establish New Monetary Caps for Legislative Candidates under the Maine Clean Election Act. [LWVME Opposed](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 300](#) An Act To Preserve Funding for the Maine Clean Election Act by Removing Gubernatorial Candidates from Eligibility. [LWVME Opposed](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 390](#) The Governor's Biennial Budget Bill, including funding for the Maine Clean Election Act. [LWVME Opposed](#) reduced funding for the Clean Elections program. The final budget preserved just enough funding for the 2018 election cycle – we hope.
- ⇒ [LD 413](#) An Act To Limit the Influence of Lobbyists by Expanding the Prohibition on Accepting Political Contributions. [LWVME Supports](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 1211](#) An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Legislative Political Action Committees. [LWVME Supports](#) Dead.

Continued on page 3

*Lobby Corp Report Continued from page 2*

**Elections and Voting Rights**

- ⇒ [LD 78](#) An Act To Permit Unenrolled Voters To Cast Ballots in Primary Elections. [LWVME Neither For Nor Against](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 121](#) An Act To Require Photographic Identification to Vote. [LWVME Opposed](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 155](#) An Act To Protect Voting Integrity by Establishing a Residency Verification Requirement for Purposes of Voting. [LWVME Opposed](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 156](#) An Act To Implement the National Popular Vote for President. [LWVME Supports](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 979](#) An Act Regarding Early Voting in Person. [LWVME Supports](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 1086](#) An Act To Amend the Laws on the Conduct of Elections and To Establish a Nonpartisan Primary Election System for State and Federal Candidates. [LWVME Neither For Nor Against](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 1204](#) An Act Regarding Absentee Voting by Residents of Nursing Homes and Other Residential Care Facilities. [LWVME Opposes](#). Carried over.
- ⇒ [LD 1232](#) An Act To Require the Secretary of State To Automatically Register Nonregistered Persons Who Are Qualified To Vote through Records of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. [LWVME Supports](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 1284](#) An Act To Require Election Transparency and Audits. [LWVME Supports](#). Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 1383](#) RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Early Voting. [LWVME Supports](#) Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 1624](#) RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Implement Ranked-choice Voting. [LWVME Supports](#) Dead.
- ⇒ [LD 1625](#) An Act To Repeal the Ranked-choice Voting Law. [LWVME Opposes](#) Dead.



**Current active members of the Lobby Corps:**

- Ann Luther (Chair)
- Gina Coppens
- Penelope Hamblin
- Helen Hanlon
- Linda Lord
- Deb McDonough
- Stephanie Philbrick
- Dale Steffens
- Polly Ward
- Ellen Wells

To get involved in our advocacy work contact us at:  
[lwwme@gwi.net](mailto:lwwme@gwi.net) or  
 (207) 622-0256

**Ethics and Disclosure**

- ⇒ [LD 1591](#) An Act To Strengthen the Restrictions Governing Lobbying by Former Legislators and Former Executive Branch Officials. [LWVME Supports](#) Dead.

**Other**

- ⇒ [HP 987](#) Joint Resolution Making Application to the Congress of the United States for Calling a Convention to Propose Amendments to the Constitution of the United States to Limit the Power of the Federal Government. [LWVME Opposed](#) Dead.



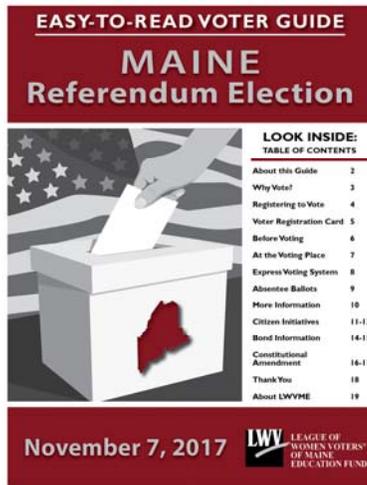
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## Election Day: What's on the Ballot?

By Peg Balano, Falmouth



The League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund has released its 10th annual Easy-To-Read Voter Guide for Maine's upcoming Referendum Election on November 7, 2017. This year, there are no statewide candidate elections, and the state ballot will consist of only four ballot questions.

Questions 1 and 2 are Citizen Initiatives to create new laws, Question 3 is a Bond Issue to borrow money, and Question 4 is a request to amend Maine's Constitution. The four questions are stated in the full text that will appear on the ballot followed by a short discussion of what each question means and the arguments both for and against the question.

The Voter Guide also includes general information about voting in Maine, including who can vote, how to register, how to vote absentee, and where to vote on Election Day. It provides information about citizen initiatives, bonds and what is involved in amending the Constitution.

This year **the guide will only be published in an electronic format** and can be found at <http://www.lwvme.org/guide.html>. We will be publicizing its availability to libraries, schools and newspapers. Please email any suggestions for distribution to [voterguide@lwvme.org](mailto:voterguide@lwvme.org).

## Community Conversations: Reviving Civility in Our Public Discourse

By Anne Schink, South Portland

Over the past year, most of us have expressed alarm, either privately or publicly, about the decline in civility in our personal and community conversations. To address that decline, the State Board adopted as part of its strategic plan a public Community Conversations program, which includes the development of a Toolkit to encourage local League members to undertake conversations in their towns to improve the way we talk to one another and engage in dialogue on challenging issues.

Building on the previous success of the Forums-in-a-Box as a tool to help communities conduct public meetings with candidates or on issues, this new project will address both process and content questions. The League has a long history of training and providing facilitators for candidates' nights and issue forums, such as the Portland Area has done this past year. Two years ago, the Portland Area League partnered with the Portland Public Library and Lift360 in their "Choose Civility" program.



At the same time, national voices have begun to address the challenges to civility. LWVUS has joined a "Revive Civility" initiative created by the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD). NICD has identified four states where they intend to organize and celebrate civility in the public square. Maine is one of the states where they will be working intensively, starting with a kick-off this month at the University of Southern Maine. The LWVME will participate in the event as we also begin a series of community conversations around the state. You will be hearing more as the project and this exciting partnership takes shape.

Learn more about Revive Civility at: <http://nicd.arizona.edu/revivecivility>.

## Pence-Kobach Election Commission Lets Its Partisanship Show in New Hampshire

*By Penelope Hamblin, South Portland*

The Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity (PACEI), aka the Pence-Kobach Commission, held its first regional meeting on September 12 in Manchester, N.H., amid calls by voter rights advocates to shut the commission down.

Media coverage focused on the controversy over the partisanship of Vice-Chair Kris Kobach, who wrote an article for Breitbart claiming that fraudulent voting “likely” affected the outcome of the 2016 N.H. Senate race. Two commission members, N.H. Secretary of State Bill Gardner and Maine Secretary of State Matt Dunlap, directly challenged Kobach over his accusation, which Dunlap said was “reckless” and “absurd.”

As expected, much of the testimony during the day-long hearing came from witnesses pushing the narrative that voter fraud is widespread. Critics fear that the commission will use this unsubstantiated narrative to make the case for new voter suppression measures.

Donald Palmer, former election official in VA and FL, first praised the efforts of US election boards and poll workers, but then focused on the issue of inadequate updating of voter registration rolls, drawing on findings from the National Commission on Election Reform studies dating back to 2001. He offered a set of recommended best practices developed by the conservative leaning Public Interest Legal Foundation, created in 2012 “to aid the cause of election integrity and fight against lawlessness in American elections.”

Robert Popper, Director of the Election Integrity Project at Judicial Watch, Inc. also focused on the need to clean up voter rolls. He cited several examples of court cases brought by Judicial Watch and others against states (including Maine) that have not fully complied with the NVRA by regularly updating their rolls.

Hans von Spakovsky, of the Heritage Foundation, was both a witness and is a member of the commission. He presented data from a variety of sources on problems with inaccurate voter rolls and gave some examples of the 1071 voter fraud prosecutions identified by Heritage Foundation to date, claiming that there would be many more uncovered as the research continued.

Ken Block of Sympatico Software Systems, discussed a study published by the conservative leaning Government Accountability Institute on duplicate voting in 21 states. The study identified 8500 cases of identical registrations found in two different places BUT could not determine if the duplications were clerical errors or voter fraud. Critics of the study note that 8500 cases are a miniscule percentage of the total population of the states covered (roughly 187 million in 2016).

John Lott, a columnist for FoxNews.com and the president of the Crime Prevention Research Center, best known for pro-gun activism rather than research on electoral systems, suggested using the existing FBI NICS for gun purchase background checks to determine if someone is eligible to vote.

Matt Dunlap, Maine’s Secretary of State, was not an official panelist, but spoke up to criticize Popper for alleging widespread fraud without any supporting data, and expressed concern about scrubbing legitimate voters from the list.

### **Make Your Voice Heard!**

#### **Talking Points and Resource Tools from LWVUS:**

<http://forum.lwv.org/document/resource-tools-so-called-election-integrity'-commission>

#### **Leave a Public Comment for the Commission:**

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=GSA-GSA-2017-0005-05>

## Maine Legislature Preserves Clean Elections

By Anna Keller, MCCE

From January to July of 2017 Clean Elections advocates were active in Augusta, striving to lock in the wins of the 2015 citizen initiative; push back on special interest money in other aspects of the campaign finance and lobbying systems in Maine; and defend against misguided, ill-conceived, and retrograde measures.

After an unusually turbulent session of the Maine legislature, we have plenty to celebrate. All of the bills that would have weakened Clean Elections were defeated, in many cases with strong bipartisan votes. While the final budget compromise does not honor our demand for the return of \$1.7 million raided from the Clean Election Fund (out of over \$6.0 million that has been raided over the years), it does include the funding increase approved by voters in 2015. After some last-minute work by our team and key allies, like the League, we also secured an early transfer of \$3 million needed for the 2018 election. Candidates and their supporters can rest assured that Clean Elections will be a viable option in the upcoming election.

We were disappointed with the outcomes for proactive bills to ban legislator-controlled Political Action Committees and to ban lobbyist contributions. Legislator-controlled PACs allow privately financed candidates to avoid contribution limits and take unrestricted contributions from individuals, corporations, unions, and other PACs. This is a major thoroughfare for special interest money coming into our elections. Despite popular support at public hearings, behind-the-scenes lobbying by political insiders killed these bills. We will take the lessons learned from the session and continue to fight for these reforms.

What was not disappointing, though, was the great team we worked with – the legislators who fought hard for their constituents, the partners from like-minded organizations who stood with us, and most of all, the volunteers and constituents who kept up the pressure and made their opinions known in the halls of Augusta and over the phone—more than 800 of you! We couldn't have done any of this without you.

### **Pence-Kobach Election Commission** *Continued from page 5*

Another side to the meeting not covered by the media, was the testimony of several distinguished, nonpartisan experts who testified on legitimate threats to election integrity not mentioned by the other speakers: poor funding of elections and hacking.

Kimball Brace of Election Data Services is a consultant who dives deeply into Census data and works with governments on mapping voting districts. His testimony served as a warning to the commission against drawing partisan conclusions when they don't understand the data. He drilled down to four small jurisdictions that had more registered voters on the rolls than their entire population and provided many logical reasons for this other than fraud.

Andrew Appel of Princeton made a compelling case that paperless balloting has to go, as there is simply no way to make computerized machines invulnerable to hackers. He said that ballot counts must be verified with random statistical audits, such as those currently in place in New Mexico and Colorado. Ronald Rivest of the Verified Voting Foundation described how risk-limiting post election audits work: sample ballots are verified until there is statistical confidence that the count is correct. “White-hat” hacker Harri Hursti explained how the entire election infrastructure is vulnerable to hacking via phones, charging devices, software updates, etc.

Materials from the September 12th hearing, including all testimony, are available on the commission's website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-advisory-commission-election-integrity-resources>.

## “It Will Change You”: Reflections on Attending a Naturalization Ceremony

By Lorraine Glowczak, Windham

Since becoming a member of the League of Women Voters six years ago, I have always longed to attend a Naturalization Ceremony. “You have to go to at least one ceremony, Lorraine. It will change you,” many of my League mentors have said to me.

Unfortunately, working full time has prevented me from doing so, until just recently. As luck would have it, I was able to wear my League and work hats at the same time and attended the Naturalization Ceremony at the Windham High School on September 11, 2017.

It was a special ceremony hosted by the Windham American Legion Auxiliary. The date the ceremony occurred was intentional. Special guests were selected to share their memories and experiences of that fateful day 16 years ago on September 11, 2001. Some of the speakers included Steve Hall, a Portland and Windham firefighter who was called to New York to help with the efforts, as well as retired Lieutenant Colonel Wally Clark who was working in Washington D.C. on that day.



The stories the guest speakers shared produced many tears in the audience and created a sense of pride among the 37 individuals from 22 different countries who were about to become a part of a country that came together in a horrifying situation.

What added to my amazement was the immigrants’ enthusiasm for U.S. citizenship. It filled the air and was catching. In fact, I think I was more excited for those 37 individuals than they were for themselves – and they were pretty happy. As I witnessed people take their first oath of allegiance to the United States, I realized my excitement was more of a feeling of luck. Some scoff at words like luck, fate, and destiny, believing you make your own life what it is, but if you were born in the U.S., destiny was on your side.



I agree that luck does not play much of a role in how we conduct our lives or how we create our own happiness, those are choices - but there are so many freedoms that come with being an American, one can’t help recognize the good fortune fate bestowed upon us.

Besides the usual freedoms of religion, speech, etc. we have other assumed freedoms we tend to take for granted. For example, we have the freedom to marry whomever we want, attend a college of our choice (or not attend college at all), dress however we want, listen to any music we choose, travel anywhere in the world and to make our dreams come true.

But perhaps most importantly, even though we can be divisive when we voice our opinions (another freedom), we come together when it’s important. Look at how we gathered as a nation 16 years ago. How lucky are we to have been born among men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice on that day for their fellow Americans?

I don’t know the stories and experiences of the 37 new citizens who filled that high school auditorium, but I suspect their road to this land of the free and home of the brave was not an easy one. I also suspect that some did not get to enjoy all the freedoms in their homelands that tumble easily into our American laps.

*Continued on Page 8*

# LWVME Study Committee Report

*By Stephanie Philbrick, Bowdoin*

Over the summer, the state board appointed a study committee to plan and coordinate the two study projects adopted at the 2017 State Convention:

**Concurrence Program:** A study on Primary Election Systems based on the study done by the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the League of Women Voters of Florida, and possibly other state Leagues.

**Consensus Program:** A study on the appropriate uses, restrictions and financing of Citizens Initiatives.

Committee members are: Barbara Kaufman (chair), Regina Coppens, Helen Hanlon, Valerie Kelly, Stephanie Philbrick, Jane Smith, and Polly Ward. The Committee is in the process of designing the Concurrence Study that will:

- ⇒ Find and research other state League primary election studies;
- ⇒ Determine which other League study or parts of studies might best match conditions in Maine;
- ⇒ Identify additional components, if any, that might be important to Maine; and
- ⇒ Recommend a LWVME policy position to the Board.

With the scope in mind, the Committee is now gathering materials and starting the research process, examining the studies conducted in Florida, Ohio, and elsewhere and comparing their election processes to Maine's.

**Looking ahead:** Since all studies follow a structure based on readings and discussion, the Study Committee will compile study materials, develop a timeline, and then create the Consensus or Concurrence questions with appropriate reading material for each. Then, facilitated study meetings will be arranged with chapters, and perhaps online, so that any member who wants to can participate.

The Concurrence Study should conclude in 2018 and the Consensus Study on Citizens Initiatives will begin. The two studies are to be completed by the next Convention in 2019. For more information or to get involved in one of the studies contact us at (207) 622-0256 or [lwwme@gwi.net](mailto:lwwme@gwi.net).

## **Naturalization** *Continued from page 7*

As a result of attending the Naturalization Ceremony and helping the new citizens register to vote, my respect grew for those individuals who have worked so hard and obviously desired freedoms that I have always taken for granted. But it also made me realize the importance of being a politically engaged and well-informed American citizen. It is not only our lucky birthright but it is our obligation to serve the nation and the world, doing the best we can to help others live full, productive lives.

If you've never attended a Naturalization Ceremony and helped new citizens register to vote, please consider it. It will change you. You'll walk away more American than when you walked in.

## Relevant Definitions

A **Concurrence study** is based on a study done or policy adopted by another state chapter. Resources may be adapted from the original study, and the study question is a vote on whether or not to adopt the policy developed by the other chapter.

A **Consensus study** is starting from scratch. If neither LWVUS nor any other chapter has an official position on a topic, a Consensus study must be conducted to formulate new policy. The goal is for the new position to reflect as broad a portion of the membership as possible.

## LWVME Voter Registration

By Peg Balano, Falmouth

The League has been fortunate to participate in 20 Naturalization Ceremonies throughout the state so far this year. Locations of these ceremonies have been at the US Citizenship and Immigration Services Office; elementary, middle and high schools; colleges; Acadia National Park; US District Courthouses; and the Portland Public Library.

As of September, we have registered 342 new voters, or 48% of the new citizens. I am always in awe of the diversity of countries these new citizens come from, and at these events, that number ranged from 9 to 35 different countries, from all over the globe. We have 4 more events scheduled through the end of the year.



We also help register voters through voter drives in the spring and fall at high schools and colleges, as well as farmers markets. In September, we were proud to participate in National Voter Registration Day (September 26) joining in voter registration events across the state on and around September 26<sup>th</sup>. To date, we have registered 120 new voters through these events. Newly registered voters at all of our drives were offered our new publication, *Voting in Maine: Making Your Vote Count*. This publication can be found on our website at [http://www.lwvme.org/files/Voting\\_Brochure\\_2016.pdf](http://www.lwvme.org/files/Voting_Brochure_2016.pdf).

If you would like to help others to register for this most basic American right, please contact me at [Peg.Balano@gmail.com](mailto:Peg.Balano@gmail.com) for more information.

## LOCAL LEAGUE UPDATES

### LWV Bangor

The Bangor League will continue its book group, meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Seasons Restaurant on Main Street in Bangor at 5:30pm. It is adding a “business” meeting to discuss current events, the League studies, and hosting other special events on the 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm at Seasons. The Bangor League sponsored three local Candidates Forums (in Hampden, Bangor and Old Town) and two voter registrations as part of National Voter Registration Day this fall.

### LWV Downeast

LWV Downeast members and friends met in June at the Flexit Café & Bakery in Ellsworth for an early evening ‘annual meeting,’ including an update of state and local accomplishments and future directions. There was thoughtful discussion with particular interest in how the League decides what issues it will address and how the League determines positions on these issues. We are also networking with folks from Machias interested in setting up an ‘at large’ LWV group.

Our book group continues to meet monthly, but the format has changed. This election cycle has produced a lot of questions, e.g. about the ‘checks and balances’ in Federal government. We’re meeting these varied and timely concerns by changing our format so that instead of everyone reading the same book, each participant reads and reports on a long-form essay or article of their own choosing on current events, issues, political theory, or social change. It’s still a lot of fun.

*Continued on Page 10*

## Local League Updates *Continued from page 9*

We also joined the YWCA Mount Desert Island, Bar Harbor, to help register voters as part of National Voter Registration Day.

Finally, we are wrapping up a 10-month public dialogue series on topics ranging from Maine's 2016 Initiatives, and "fake" news, to issues facing the "Two Maines" and global trade. Monthly topics feature remarks by experts and time for participants to interact with each other and the audience. Each topic is first discussed on the League's Democracy Forum radio program, which airs 10 - 11am, the third Friday of the month on WERU-FM Community Radio, 89.9 FM Blue Hill, 99.9 FM Bangor. A community dialogue follows the next Wednesday, 5:30 - 7pm, at Pat's Pizza in Ellsworth with three local guests. For example, the October 2017 conversation, "Political Parties: Do They Still Matter?" begins with a radio conversation October 20 featuring noted author and Senior Brookings Fellow, Jonathan Rauch, and University of Maine Professor Mark Brewer. The follow-up community conversation will be held on Wednesday, October 25. Radio shows are available for live streaming throughout the state at [www.weru.org](http://www.weru.org). Past shows are archived at <http://www.lwvme.org/forum.html>. We are very excited about continuing our Democracy Forum series into 2018!

## LWV Portland Area

With an exception for our involvement with US Naturalization Ceremonies, it was a pretty quiet summer. As September approached, however, we did enter the fall season full-speed ahead.

Our Chapter views National Voter Registration Day, September 26, 2017, as merely a recommendation for a time frame! We usually go to high schools, colleges, and farmers' markets anytime during the last two weeks of September and the first week of October. While at the time of this writing our numbers are not yet all in, we have noticed an increased student and faculty interest in voting, understanding election processes, and increasing civic participation in local government and issues. We will be organizing another voter registration drive for the spring of 2018. We hope to work with individual teachers at all levels to talk about elections in Maine and civic participation.

On October 4, two local member/presenters, Anne Schink and Barbara Kaufman, held a Scarborough Adult Ed workshop to build communication skills in conversing civilly with those whose views diverge from one's own. It was a great opportunity to meet new people and explore a template for additional adult education workshops.

For those members who have attended either Part 1 or Part 2 of our facilitator training, please attend Part 3 on Wednesday, October 18 from 5:30-8pm. Once again, trainers Tiffany Greco and Anne Schink promise great discussions and opportunities for practicing skills.

Continuing our tradition of post-election discussion Wine and Whines, we are planning one for the week of November 13. In December, we will hold a membership gathering (pizza and beer?) to celebrate our past year and usher in the holidays. Stay tuned for more information in our monthly email and on the Calendar page of [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org).

Our LWVPA Board met on September 14 and will meet again on November 9 from 5:30-7:30pm at Martin's Point Jewell Room on the Portland/Falmouth campus. These meetings are always open to all members and potential members. For more information about our Portland Area Chapter, please check us out at: [www.lwvme.org/portland.html](http://www.lwvme.org/portland.html). Hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

## Honoring One of Our Own: Ann M. Luther Award for Excellence in Volunteerism



At Convention, the LWVME family was proud to honor long-time League member and uber-volunteer, Ann Luther, with the establishment of the Ann M. Luther Award for Excellence in Volunteerism.

Established to celebrate and honor the work of outstanding volunteers serving the League of Women Voters of Maine (LWVME), this award recognizes volunteers who go above and beyond to serve the League and the State of Maine through civic engagement. Awardees give their time and expertise to advance the League's mission of strengthening American democracy through nonpartisan political participation, public education, and advocacy.

Recipients of this award exemplify the highest standards of volunteerism and dedication to the League and to making democracy work for all. The award was established and first awarded in 2017 to Ann M. Luther who set a very high standard for commitment, accomplishment, and vision in League work. Her efforts on behalf of the League demonstrate the value of outstanding volunteer work and the impact it can have, both on the League itself and on our communities, our state, and our nation.

Ann Luthers don't come around very often, and we are so happy to honor the original!

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 18  
5:30-8:00PM

**Portland:** LWVPA Facilitator Training—Part 3. Open to those who attended Parts 1 and 2. RSVP to [tiffgreco@gmail.com](mailto:tiffgreco@gmail.com).  
Martin's Point Jewell Room, 331 Veranda Street, Building 6, Portland

Wednesday, October 18  
5:30-8:30PM

**Bangor Candidates Forum.** Candidates for Bangor School Committee and City Council. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters in the Bangor Area.  
Council Chambers, Bangor City Hall, 73 Harlow Street, Bangor

Wednesday, October 18  
5:30-8:30PM

**Old Town Candidates Forum.** Old Town School Board and City Council. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters in the Bangor Area.  
Old Town Public Library, 46 Middle Street, Old Town

Friday, October 20  
10:00-11:00AM

**Democracy Forum.** Political Parties: Do They Still Matter? WERU-FM 89.9 FM Blue Hill, 99.9 FM Bangor ([www.weru.org](http://www.weru.org))

Wednesday, October 25  
5:30-7:00PM

**Public Conversation.** Continuing in the discussion, Political Parties: Do They Still Matter? Live panel and free snacks at Pat's Pizza in Ellsworth, 396 High St., Ellsworth

Wednesday, November 1  
8:00AM

**Machias League Planning Meeting.** Join League members in the Machias area to plan for the coming year. For information or to RSVP, email [lwwme@gwi.net](mailto:lwwme@gwi.net).  
Helen's Restaurant, 111 Main Street, Machias

Monday, November 6  
5:00PM

**Midcoast League Planning Meeting.** Join League members in the Midcoast area to plan for the coming year. For information or to RSVP, email [midcoast@lwwme.org](mailto:midcoast@lwwme.org).  
Thomaston Public Library, 60 Main Street, Thomaston

Tuesday, November 7

**ELECTION DAY**

# JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Join the League, and be part of the solution! Your community needs leaders like you to be a strong, safe, and vibrant place to live. Become a member, and make a positive impact on your community.

Sign up online at [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org) and pay by credit card or PayPal, or mail this form and a check made payable to **LWVME to PO Box 863, Augusta, ME 04332-0863**. *Dues are not tax deductible.* But contributions made payable to LWVME Education Fund are deductible and are always appreciated. Thank you!

Member name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Check amount: \_\_\_\_\_

- Introductory Member (First Year) - \$25       Student Member - \$25       Single Member - \$55  
 Two-person household - \$85       Mentor (Supports First-Year Membership Program) - \$100



League of Women Voters of Maine  
PO Box 863  
Augusta, ME 04332-0863

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