



## BULLETIN January, 2020

*Happy New Year!  
Welcome to 2020, the League's 100th Anniversary*

### **LWV Lexington January First Friday Forum: Lexington' Center Streetscape Project Dave Pinsonneault and John Livsey, DPW**

After years of discussion and planning, funding of \$9.1 million for the Lexington Center Streetscape Project was finally voted at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting. The project has inspired enthusiastic support and some critical questions. So, what is its current status?

Join the LWV Lexington First Friday Forum in January, when David Pinsonneault, Public Works Director, and John Livsey, Town Engineer, will present an overview, including the three stated goals of the project: improved safety, improved accessibility and renewal of the mid-century modern landscape of Lexington Center. The project scope, funding, timeline, types of materials and project coordination will be discussed.

**The Lexington LWV January First Friday Forum will take place in the Cary Memorial Library's Large Meeting Room at 1874 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, on January 3, 2020. Coffee will be available at 9:15am and the presentation will start at 9:30am.**

This is the fourth in a series the Lexington League of Women Voters sponsors to inform and engage our community. All League forums are free and open to the public. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

For more information, contact the League Convenor Margaret Coppe at [mecoppe@gmail.com](mailto:mecoppe@gmail.com).

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## UPCOMING IN THE LEXINGTON LEAGUE

### Candidates Night - February 13, 2020

The Lexington League's annual Candidates Night will be held at Clarke Middle School on Thursday, February 13, 2020 (narrowly missing Valentine's Day this year). Coffee will be available at 7:00 pm. Each of the nine Town precincts will convene for precinct meetings at 7:30 pm, to meet candidates for Town Meeting from their precinct and to discuss issues relevant to their neighborhoods. At the plenary session at 8:15 pm, candidates for all Town-wide offices will be given an opportunity to introduce themselves to voters and respond to their questions. As always, the League will have some questions of our own for candidates.

### Planning for the LWV 100th Birthday

*This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the national League of Women Voters on February 14 and the Massachusetts League of Women Voters on May 27. The 19th amendment, giving women the vote, was adopted on August 26, 1920.*

*The League of Women Voters of Lexington was organized in 1944, as noted in a local newspaper:*

March 30, 1944      **Lexington League of Women Voters Organized**

About thirty women met in the Sewing Room of the High School on Monday afternoon for the purpose of organizing a Lexington League of Women Voters. Mrs. Raymond Reed was named temporary chairman and Mrs. James Heggie, secretary, pro-tem.

The state president Mrs. A. E. Whittemore spoke at length about the platform and program of the League. A nominating committee was appointed. Mrs. Geo. E. Briggs and Mrs. John Cook were appointed to draw up By-Laws for the local Association.

Planning for Lexington's observance of this historic year is underway. Among the ideas being developed are co-sponsoring a Cary Lecture, exhibiting on Cary Library's "Idea Wall" and entering a float in the Patriots' Day Parade. (Remember our artistic triumph several years ago?) Please contact Wendy Manz (781) 863-1733 to share your ideas and find out how you can help.

### February First Friday Forum

At the February First Friday Forum we will hear from Dr. Julie Hackett, Superintendent of the Lexington Public Schools. With the imminent completion of the new Hastings Elementary School and the ongoing process of redistricting, there is a lot to learn about. The school's share of the Town's budget has also been the subject of considerable discussion, as the annual

Town budget is firmed up for review at spring Town Meeting. Bring your questions!

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS**

### **Nominating Committee Seeks New Board Members - Second Call**

The LWVMA Nominating Committee has begun putting together a slate of LWVMA officers and directors, to be presented to League members at the 2020 Council Meeting in the spring. This year there are openings for Treasurer and Secretary as well as other board members.

Please think about which of your fellow League members would be well-suited to serve at the state level, and be prepared to nominate yourself or another talented and committed local Leaguer to serve on the LWVMA Board of Directors and/or the LWVMA Nominating Committee. We need to make use of all the talent out there!

The Nominating Committee will contact League leaders across the state to request names as they work to develop a 2020-2021 slate. Please feel free to reach out to any of the committee members at [nominating@lwwma.org](mailto:nominating@lwwma.org): Wendy Manz, Chair, Lee Bona, Sharon McCarthy, Jean Cherdack, and Kathy Leonardson.

### **Watch LWVMA's Webinar on Census Effort**

LWVMA hosted a webinar Dec. 5 on ways to help with the 2020 U.S. Census. Carly Bari, partnership specialist for the Census Bureau, explained how the census will be conducted, pointed out the resources available on the Census Bureau website, and answered questions. You can watch the recording at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIHpkLXdfUc&feature=youtu.be>

### **DEI Resources on Website**

LWVMA is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in principle and in practice. These principles are central to our mission to engage individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

To support the goal of LWVMA and local Leagues to reflect and include all voices in our communities, the DEI committee has put together a list of resources that complement those provided by LWVUS. They are designed to provide information for members for personal education, and to help raise awareness of DEI issues in each of our communities. They include webinars, books for individual reading or book clubs, TED talks to jump start discussions at local meetings, and links to webinars.

The DEI Committee hopes that you will share this information with League members and others, and that they will support our commitment to becoming a more welcoming, inclusive, and diverse organization.

The resource list is a "living document," and we will add items as we become aware of them. If you have a recommendation, question, or comment, please email our DEI committee at [Diversitycommittee@lwwma.org](mailto:Diversitycommittee@lwwma.org). Thank you!



# 100th Anniversary LWVMA, LWVUS 19th Amendment



## PROGRAMS CELEBRATING LOCAL WOMEN

Presented monthly by Freedom's Way National Heritage Association.

**January 11 – Patricia C. Fitzmaurice – Arlington, MA** (*Partner: Lancaster Trails Committee*)

A visionary preservationist, Patricia C. Fitzmaurice recognized the historical and educational value of the Old Schwamb Mill property and led a tireless effort to preserve the longest continuing mill site in the western hemisphere. Originally a 17<sup>th</sup> century gristmill and sawmill, it was converted to a woodworking mill that continues to produce wooden and oval picture frames.

Join us as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Old Schwamb Mill Preservation Trust, established by a committee led by Fitzmaurice. Featured will be a gallery exhibition: *She Did It: Women Saving History*, created by Old Schwamb Mill's historical exhibit committee members.

**The Old Schwamb Mill is located at 17 Mill Lane, Arlington, MA.**

**\* FUTURE PROGRAMS ARE LISTED BELOW:** For information on times and locations and to register to attend, go to [Freedomsway.org/Programs/Connecting-Communities-Walks-Talks](https://freedomsway.org/Programs/Connecting-Communities-Walks-Talks).

**February 29 – Harriet E. Wilson – Milford, NH** (*Partner: The Harriet Wilson Project*)

**March 28 – Eleanor Norcross – Fitchburg, MA** (*Partner: Fitchburg Greenway Committee*)

**April 25 – Prudence Cummings Wright – Pepperell, MA** (*Partners: Daughters of the American Revolution – Prudence Wright Chapter, Pepperell Historical Society*)

**May 16 – Mary Rowlandson & Weetamoo – Lancaster, MA** (*Partner: Lancaster Trails Committee*)

**June 23 – Marion Stoddart – Groton, MA** (*Partner: Nashua River Watershed Association*)

**July 18 – Elizabeth Orton Jones – Mason, NH** (*Partners: Mason Historical Society, Mason Public Library*)

**August 22 – Hazel MacKaye – Shirley, MA** (*Partners: Shirley Historical Society, Shirley Meeting House*)

**September 26 – Louisa May Alcott, Harriett Lothrop, Margaret Lothrop - Concord, MA** (*Partners: Minute Man National Historical Park (National Park Service), Friends of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery*)

# **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES**

## **LWVUS Sets Feb. 14 as a Day of Action**

On February 14, the League of Women Voters will celebrate its 100th anniversary of service, education, and citizen engagement. To celebrate our legacy, support the anniversary plans already scheduled, and amplify our League voice, there will be an official Day of Action on Feb. 14 to capture all of the activities Leagues have planned across the country.

LWVMA is working on a Day of Action program focused on events at the State House and a social media campaign for all members to participate in. Details will be available in January.

Local Leagues are also invited to participate in a local Day of Action on February 14. Every League that registers its Day of Action activities with the LWVUS by Friday, Jan. 10, will automatically be eligible for a \$1,000 award. Shortly after Jan. 10, LWVUS will randomly select five Leagues to receive a \$1,000 award that can be used for any League-related activity. The Lexington League Board will discuss our local plans for this day at our January 6 Board meeting at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

## **LWVUS Program Planning for Convention**

**The League of Women Voters' 54th national convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill & Liaison in Washington June 25-28, 2020.**

The next two months are program planning time leading up to the June Convention. State and local Leagues are invited to offer program planning input for the 2020-2022 biennium by March 10. The program planning process allows us to align our grassroots work with national League priorities and our with our organization's mission. Program planning will culminate in adoption of a program of education and action at Convention 2020 in Washington. You will find an overview as well as the survey to weigh in for convention at the League Management Site <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/leaders-guide-lwvus-program-planning-2020-2022>. Email the LWVUS at [progplan@lwv.org](mailto:progplan@lwv.org).

LWVUS will open registration and the portals to book hotel rooms early in 2020. Lexington League members are invited to save these June dates and plan to join fellow League leaders from across the country for our biennial national gathering.

## LWVUS on Presidential Candidate Actions

The national League will handle all outreach and activities involving Presidential candidates. Here's an update on that activity from LWVUS:

The creation of the LWV Presidential candidate voters' guide is underway. The LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) manages all outreach to the Presidential candidates and will publish the questions and answers for all states on **VOTE411.org**, as well as share the information with state and local Leagues for their printed and other online voters' guides.

For the LWV Presidential voters' guide, outreach to candidates who meet our criteria for inclusion has begun. **LWVEF will publish the Presidential information on VOTE411 in early January for both Iowa and New Hampshire** and will publish additional states on a rolling basis depending on when each state's primary/caucus is held. For the first time ever, LWVEF is asking the candidates to answer our questions in both English and Spanish. Both languages will be published on VOTE411, and voters will be able to view the information in the language of their choice.

Only candidates who meet the criteria for inclusion will be asked our questions. All other candidates will be listed on each states' guide; however, they will not be contacted by LWVEF. At this time, LWVEF will only be reaching out to Democratic candidates, since there is only one Republican candidate who meets our criteria for inclusion. If any other Republican candidates meet the criteria, we will immediately begin outreach to these candidates and provide that information on VOTE411 and elsewhere.

## OF INTEREST



### **The Citizen's Senate Premiere** Tuesday, January 21, 6:30 p.m.

Join the Kennedy Institute for the premiere of The Citizen's Senate, a new educational program that highlights key moments in American history when citizens have compelled the U.S. Senate to act. The first installment will examine the struggles and ultimate success of the final decade of the suffrage movement. The Citizen's Senate features a combination of archival footage and live performance.

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Register at this link [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-citizens-senate-premiere-tickets-86955148189?\\_ga=2.88059294.740675059.1576511557-5104845.1563380163](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-citizens-senate-premiere-tickets-86955148189?_ga=2.88059294.740675059.1576511557-5104845.1563380163)

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**2019--2020**

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**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the February 2020 LWV LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at [wendy\\_manz@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy_manz@yahoo.com) prior to January 23.**