



BULLETIN, July, 2020

UPCOMING IN THE LEXINGTON LEAGUE

CARY LIBRARY PRESENTATIONS

The physical re-opening date of Cary Memorial Library remains uncertain. However, the Library has arranged for virtual presentation of scheduled speakers of particular interest to League members, and [the Lexington League](#) will be co-sponsoring the following events:

* > **Victoria A. Budson**: "The Essential Role of Women in Politics."

Virginia Budson is the founder and Executive Director of the Women and Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She originated a training program which prepares women to run for public office and has trained graduate students from across the world. Institutions in many countries consult her training methodology to increase gender equity in their political leadership. Ms. Budson has provided consulting to the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of State, the White House Council on Women and Girls, and the U.S. Military, among others.

This presentation, co-sponsored by the Lexington League and the Cary Library Foundation, will compare the level of participation of women and girls in the political process in the United States with that in other nations, and address the serious ramifications when women do not have "a seat at the table."

The online program is scheduled for [Thursday, July 23, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm](#), and requires advance registration, as space is limited. The Library will send out a program link by email on July 22. For more information contact caryprograms@minlit.net.

* **Tina Cassidy**: "Mr. President, How Long Must We Wait? Alice Paul, Woodrow Wilson and the Fight for the Right to Vote" Ms. Cassidy, a former reporter for the Boston Globe, is the author of a number of books on history and politics. Her talk is scheduled for [Tuesday, July 28](#).

* **Sheryl Faye**: "Susan B. Anthony - Failure is Impossible" In this one-woman performance, Ms. Faye presents one of the most prominent figures in the women's suffrage movement who fought for passage of the 19th Amendment and other rights for women.. This performance is scheduled for [Wednesday, August 5](#).

In addition, the Library is presenting a number of other virtual programs of interest to League members related to voting and political action:

[Virtual Lecture: Impacts of Voter Turnout with Professor Rachael V. Cobb](#)
Thursday, July 9 @ 12:00 PM

[Virtual Author Visit: Eitan Hersh: Political Hobbyism vs. Political Power](#)
Monday, July 13 @ 7:00 PM

[Virtual Discussion with Ariel White: Incarceration, Race, and Elections](#)
Thursday, August 13 @ 12:00 PM

Lexington League First Friday Forums will resume in October, 2020.

PROGRAMS CELEBRATING LOCAL WOMEN

Presented monthly by Freedom's Way National Heritage Association.

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

Illustrator and author Elizabeth Orton Jones moved to a quaint little red cottage in Mason, NH, which she used as the model for the illustrations in *Little Red Riding Hood*. Orton Jones, whom locals came to know as "Twig," worked to collect and preserve the history of her beloved town and founded the Mason Historical Society.

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

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*)

LEXINGTON LEAGUE NON- PARTISANSHIP POLICY

The 2020 elections will be crucial to the future of the nation and our state. Many League members plan to participate in campaigns, voting registration and other aspects of the elections. With this in mind, the LWVMA suggests that local Leagues review their individual non-partisanship policies with all our members and invite input. The Lexington League Non-Partisanship Policy is attached at the end of this Bulletin for your review and comment.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA COUNCIL HELD ON ZOOM JUNE 13, 2020

More than 150 delegates from 33 local Leagues across the Commonwealth attended the LWVMA Council on June 13, including four voting delegates from the Lexington League. During the business meeting, the membership elected LWVMA officers, Board members, and Nominating Committee members. Judy Zaunbrecher will remain for her second year as Co-President, Kathy Leonard for her second year as First Vice President, and Hartell Johnson for her second year as a Director.

The following Board Officers were elected for the 2020-2022 term:

- * Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, Member at Large, Co-President
- * Amy Smith, Topsfield-Middleton-Boxford, Second Vice President
- * Tanya Roy, Wellesley, Treasurer
- * Courtney Rau Rogers, Norwood, Secretary

Directors for a two-year term:

- * Marie Gauthier, Franklin County
- * Vedna Lacombe-Heywood, Plymouth Area
- * Susan Millinger, Amherst
- * Brenda Safford, Worcester Area

Directors for a one-year term:

- * Jo-Ann Berry, Acton Area
- * Karen Callanan, Member at Large
- * Susan Flicop, Wayland

Nominating Committee:

- * Sharon McCarthy, Chair, Harvard
- * Sharyn Roberts, Newton.

Grateful thanks was offered to departing Officers and Directors: Mary Ann Ashton, Co-President; Andrea Kozinetz, Treasurer; Lee Bona, Second Vice-President; and Directors Kate Boland and Nancy Brumback.

Pattye Comfort, LWVMA Executive Director, provided an update on how she and the staff have been working remotely since mid-March. Pattye and Andrea Kozinetz gave a FY2020 financial overview.

Stepping in for the earlier scheduled speaker, Ricardo Ramirez, Head of the Voting Rights and Election Center at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU, presented an overview of the 2020 elections, the challenges we face, and what should be done to ensure free and fair elections during the pandemic. A lively Q&A session rounded out the Council.

LWVMA ADVOCACY

Election Bill Advances

The legislative conference committee reconciling the House and Senate versions of the bill addressing COVID-19 concerns for the fall elections released the final bill Monday, June 29. It is expected to pass the House and the Senate and be sent to the Governor for signature in the coming week. LWVMA urges Governor Baker to sign this bill immediately. It's going to take time for election officials to implement the needed reforms so that the Sept. 1 primary and Nov. 3 general elections operate both safely and efficiently.

Among the major provisions of the final bill, H.4820/S2764, are:

- An application for a mail ballot will be sent to every registered voter before each election. Applications must be returned to local election officials by four days before the election.
- In-person early voting will be available Aug. 22-28 before the primary and Oct. 17-30 before the November election.
- Voter registration deadline will be 10 days before each election instead of 20 days.
- Applications and mailed ballots will be postage-paid return.
- Local election officials can process mailed ballots in a central location before Election Day. No results will be tabulated or reported until polls close.
- Secure drop boxes will be provided for return of ballots.
- For the November election, ballots will be accepted if mailed on or before Election Day and received by Nov. 6.

Legislation Progress Update

Actions taken in June on bills we support.

Bills reported favorably out of committee:

[S.1388](#) - An Act relative to crime gun data reporting and analysis

[H.1949](#) - An Act to reduce racial disparities in maternal health

[H.2653](#) - An Act relative to regional transportation ballot initiatives

Bills no longer active this session:

[S.2116](#) - An Act relative to a clean transportation future

How to Contact Your Legislator: You can find phone numbers, email addresses and office addresses on the legislature's webpage for your Senator and Representative. Go to www.malegislature.gov and click on the Legislators tab.

Criminal Justice Reform

Colleen Kirby, our criminal justice reform legislative specialist, is looking for help. She would like a co-specialist to work with her on criminal justice legislation, to join the Legislative Action Committee, and to become familiar with the coalitions in this area. To support the League's continuing advocacy for criminal justice reform, please email Colleen at kirby.cho@gmail.com, and join her in this important work.

Volunteer for Phone Banks for Voter Registration

Take action before the upcoming elections. LWVMA's partners at the Massachusetts Voter Table are building on their experience using phone banks to contact people to fill out Census forms, and will be operating phone banks to encourage underrepresented groups to register to vote and to explain how to vote by mail. Later on, phone banks will encourage people to return their mail ballot applications and then their actual ballots.

So far, voting phone banks are scheduled for:

- July 15: 11-1 and 5-7
- July 16: 11-1 and 5-7
- July 17: 11-1
- July 18: 11 1 -3-1 and

You'll need a computer and a phone; training and a script are provided. Please note you need to sign up for each day you would like to phone bank. The voter outreach is being combined with the 2020 Census count outreach through the end of July. Residents of the lowest self-response communities are being called to ask them to fill out the 2020 Census and to remind them to register to vote. MassCounts is conducting phone banks through the end of July Tuesdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesdays 5-7 p.m., Thursdays 5-7 p.m., and Saturdays 1-3 p.m.

You can sign up to work on both the Census and voter outreach at eventbrite.com/e/2020-census-ma-virtual-phonebank-tickets-101132116884..

Racial Justice Initiatives

In June the state League issued the following statement following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis:

As the Massachusetts League, we grieve and share the horror at the brutal acts toward our fellow Black citizens. We demand accountability at all levels of our government which is "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Here in Massachusetts we commit as individuals and as a League to hold ourselves accountable: to listen to Black voices in our communities and the Commonwealth, to educate ourselves better and stand against the racism prevalent in our society, and to advocate for policies and practices to eliminate systemic racism in Massachusetts. We dedicate ourselves: to vigorously advocate for the opportunity for everyone to vote safely in this fall's elections, to ensure that each member of our communities, statewide, is counted in the Census, to address the inequities in our society that the corona virus pandemic has so dramatically exposed, and to speak out against racism. Every resident in Massachusetts deserves equal protection and safety as we go about our daily lives. Every member of our communities should be welcomed with open hearts into our institutions and our organizations. As civically engaged members of our communities from every corner of the Commonwealth, we must set the example with our words and actions for our children and grandchildren to demand a Massachusetts which is just and fair for all.

And we amplify this call to action: the road to change lies at the ballot box, and the most significant change can happen in elections closest to home. We must exercise our rights to safeguard them. Protecting rights for everyone means standing against injustice toward anyone. Vote.

[Check Out LWVMA Video Contest Winners](#)

Take a break and take a look at the winners of our annual student video contest. LWVMA invited Massachusetts high school students to create 30-second videos answering the question: "Should 16-year-olds have the right to vote?"

First Place: [I Can't Vote](#), Needham High School

Second Place: [Why 16 Year Olds Should Vote: By the Facts](#), Northampton High School

Third Place: [A Stronger Democracy](#), Sandwich High School

Honorable Mention:

[16-Year-Olds Don't Need the Vote to Have Influence](#), Hingham High School

[Why 16-Year-Olds Should Have the Right to Vote](#), Amherst Regional High School

[16 Year Olds-Let Them Vote!](#), Dartmouth High School

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

LWVUS CELEBRATED 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT NATIONAL CONVENTION IN JUNE

Members attending the national LWVUS Convention in June elected Dr. Deborah Ann Turner to serve as the 20th President of the Board of Directors.



"Deborah Turner's commitment to advancing voting rights and her dedication to democracy reform make her the right leader for our national board of directors," said Virginia Kase, CEO of the League. "As a medical doctor and an attorney, Deborah's experience and vision will shape our work for the next two year. The League is preparing for the election of our lifetime, and our membership is fortunate to have such an accomplished woman directing our focus." A League member for more than a decade, Dr. Turner spent the last four years on the national board of directors, where she advanced the

League's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as chair of the DEI Committee. Hailing from Iowa, she now calls Omaha, Nebraska home. "The League is at the intersection of democracy, social justice, and civil rights, and it is through that lens that we seek to advance voting rights in this country," Dr. Turner told the 2000 attendees at the Convention.

The League membership also elected a new national board of directors who will serve through June 2022.

Delegates from all 50 states and the Virgin Islands attended the League's 54th National Convention, which was held virtually June 25-27. The event included a keynote address from [CBS News Anchor Norah O'Donnell](#).

RESOLUTION ON RACIAL JUSTICE

The following resolution was submitted to the national LWVUS Convention by 20 state Leagues, including the LWVMA, and was adopted by the Convention. In view of the turning point in race relations which our country faces today, we have included it here in full.

RESOLUTION ON RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR

1. *Whereas*, the killings of George Floyd¹ and countless other Black people have focused our nation's attention on the continuing structural and systemic racism in law enforcement and the justice system; and,
2. *Whereas*, Black people and all historically marginalized people of color are disproportionately criminalized and targeted by excessive force and brutality by law enforcement² ; and,
3. *Whereas*, delegates to the 2020 League of Women Voters (League) Convention are outraged by these injustices in law enforcement that unfairly target Black people and all people of color; and,
4. *Whereas*, the current crisis is a result of racism and socio-economic inequalities that have marginalized, discriminated against and harmed Black people and all people of color. Education, housing, employment, healthcare and every aspect of American life have been impacted; and,
5. *Whereas*, the League acknowledges painfully that America is a nation founded on racism.³ We must end white privilege and the myth of white supremacy if we are to become the nation we pledge⁴ to be; and,
6. *Whereas*, the League commemorates the centennial of our organization and passage of the 19th Amendment along with the courage, persistence and vision of our founding members. We have openly acknowledged that our past has been marred by racism and we will continue to work toward being Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive, (DEI)⁶; and
7. *Whereas*, the League believes in individual liberties, civil rights, human rights, and voting rights writ large; we defend democracy and oppose all threats to these constitutional rights; therefore,
8. *We Resolve First*, That the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes; and,
9. *We Resolve Second*, That the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC) deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"

LWVUS ADVOCACY

Racial Justice

The LWVUS has signed a letter with more than 400 civil rights organizations calling on Congress to implement needed policing reforms. The letter urges congressional leadership to swiftly rectify the legacy of white supremacy and anti-black racism that has led to police violence against Black people across our country: "Congress must rectify these structural wrongs through legislation before another Black life is needlessly lost."

"Now is the time for Congress to pass meaningful police reform legislation. While we appreciate hearings and resolutions, we need comprehensive measures enacted. We need Congress to advance meaningful legislation to protect Black communities from the systemic perils of over policing, police brutality, misconduct, and harassment, and end the impunity with which officers operate in taking the lives of Black people."

Statement from Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO, 6/3/2020:

"As a democracy and voting rights organization, we must be part of the progress that is catalyzed at this moment. In the coming weeks and months, we will be supporting our partners in the civil rights community who are working on legislation and policy reforms focused on creating systemic change in our government institutions, starting with unjust policing." Additionally she stated, "Now, more than ever, it's clear that our work to inform voters and hold government accountable on the local and state level is where real potential for change lies."

Supreme Court Advocacy

In June the LWVMA celebrated two decisions delivered by the Supreme Court of the US for cases in which LWVUS had joined in amicus briefs.

In a 6-3 decision in *Bostock v. Georgia & Harris Funeral Homes v. EEOC* the court ruled that LGBTQ workers were protected from job discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and in a 5-4 decision in *DHS v. Regents of University of California*, the Court ruled that the federal Department of Homeland Security's decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was arbitrary and capricious under the Administrative Procedure Act, preserving DACA for the time being. .

The national LWVUS has long offered public advocacy on issues which are covered by the League's established positions. Currently the League has supported the Justice in Policing Act 2020. However, the League does not engage in fund raising around issues outside of its core mission. In a June letter to members, national President Chris Carson acknowledged the recent successful advocacy before the Supreme Court but stated:

*As a voting rights organization, we play an important role in building a more just and inclusive democracy, and these wins at the Supreme Court are a step in the right direction. * * * There are many organizations representing the people and communities who have long pursued racial justice and policing reforms. It is not appropriate for our organization to try to financially capitalize off their efforts or what led to this moment. We must stay in our lane on voting rights and not take resources away from those organizations that lead the racial justice movement in this country.*

National Voter Registration Day, September 22, 2020

Voter registration is more important than ever this year, and the LWVUS will once again be a premiere partner for National Voter Registration Day, September 22, 2020. A big voter registration push relatively early in the cycle is crucial to ensuring that all Americans have an opportunity to take advantage of expanded options to vote in a safe way. And it’s also critical to helping election officials across the country in their efforts to offer these options to all eligible voters.

SAVE THE DATE

July 9, 2020	Cary Library Lecture: Rachael V. Cobb	Online
July 13, 2020	Cary Library Lecture: Eitan Hersh	Online
July 15-18, 2020	Phone banking for the census and voter registration	
July 23, 2020	Cary Library lecture: Victoria Budson	Online
July 28, 2020	Cary Library lecture: Tina Cassidy on Alice Paul	Online
August 5, 2020	Cary Library lecture: Sheryl Faye on Susan B. Anthony	Online
August 13, 2020	Cary Library Discussion: Ariel White	Online
September 1, 2020	Massachusetts Primary	
September 22, 2020	National Voter Registration Day	
November 3, 2020	National Presidential and Congressional Election	
December 13, 2020	LWVMA 100th Birthday Gala	

League of Women Voters of Lexington
Lexington, Massachusetts

NONPARTISANSHIP POLICY
ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE LEXINGTON LWV BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 2011

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that promotes political responsibility of citizens through informed and active participation in government. The League is nonpartisan in that it neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates for office. It is, however, a political organization. It takes positions on issues that it has studied and works to obtain support for any position which it has adopted.. Maintaining its nonpartisanship is an important element of its political effectiveness.

Program

League program is based on positions on issues to which the League has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to take action. As policy agents of the membership, the Board has a specific obligation to the program. The Board must continually keep the program in mind, keep it before the membership and support it.

The Spokesperson and Voters Service Chair comprise the Leadership Team who represent the League to the community at large and thus have extraordinary responsibility to uphold the nonpartisanship policy of the League. To preserve the integrity of the Lexington League of Women Voters, no member of the Leadership Team should make an individual statement, in print or in person, that compromises a position taken by the national, state or local League on an issue. If a Leadership Team member wishes to make a statement, it will be the responsibility of the Board member to discuss that statement with other Board members in advance to review the content for possible conflict. Members in leadership roles at League meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environs.

All League members and Board Members, including the Leadership Team, are encouraged to run for and serve as members of Town Meeting. In the course of debate in Town Meeting, Leadership Team members shall be careful to identify their comments as personal positions or League positions. Should any member of the Leadership Team support positions that are in opposition to League positions, that member shall refrain from speaking. If the matter is of such importance to the member that the member cannot in good conscience so refrain, the member shall discuss the matter with the full Board. Since it is advantageous to the League to be informed of the full range of opinion, every effort to reach a compromise short of resignation should be made. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to bind the voting of any member who is a member of Town Meeting or other Town boards. The Board member shall vote independently as the member thinks is best for the Town.

Board Members

The ability of the League to serve as a source of voter information depends on the recognition and acceptance within the community of the League's nonpartisanship policy. The Lexington League of Women Voters requires that members of the Leadership Team shall engage in no partisan activity during their term of office. Partisan activity shall be construed to include public association with a political party or candidate through newspaper publicity, personal interview, carrying of car signs, endorsement in newspaper advertising or contribution of sums greater than \$50.

It is understood that, should a Leadership Team member resign due to public conflict with the nonpartisan policy, that Leadership Team member will do so for the complete length of the term.

Political Activities of Members

League members are encouraged to be involved in political activities. Most members have League activity as part of a range of activities and are not identified as spokesmen for the League. A member may support or oppose candidates for public office and may run for public office, endorse candidates, sign or carry nomination papers, or contribute money or time to campaigns. The member may support organizations working for the passage of legislation. In doing so, of course, the member will not be identified as a League member or use the name of the League publicly except in support of League positions.

League members representing the League as appointed members of a commission or committee are bound by League positions and the nonpartisanship policy. Should the committee or commission take a position contrary to League positions or become involved in an election campaign, the member should discuss the conflict with the full Board. League members who are appointed to commissions or committees as citizens and not as representatives of the League may act with ordinary discretion.

A Leadership Team Member May...

- run for and serve as a member of Town Meeting.
- be a member of a citizen's organization devoted to non-League causes. (Exceptional restraint should be exercised in participation in organizations that regularly endorse candidates, and in no case should a member of the Leadership Team be an officer in such an organization.)
- attend a function for a candidate, and is urged to attend one for each candidate if at all possible.
- sign nomination papers for any office
- serve as an appointed member of a local, state or national committee. If a member of the Leadership Team represents the League, the member shall have Board approval.
- serve when a family member holds elected office except under extraordinary circumstances (to be determined by the Board).
- make a contribution of less than \$50 to a local, state or national campaign fund.
- work for and endorse candidates for Town Meeting except where such candidate is running for town-wide office as well as Town Meeting.
- be a member of a local or state party club

A Leadership Team Member May Not...

- run for or serve in any elective office other than Town Meeting Member.
- publicly support a local, state or national candidate by circulating nomination papers, hosting fund raising or campaign functions or endorsing candidates. The member should not be restricted by his or her spouse's political activity, but if the spouse is a candidate, the member should not participate in voter contact work or use his or her League position on the spouse's behalf.
- publicly or actively support a party or engage in party work.
- be a member of a local or state party committee or an officer of a political club.
- make a contribution of \$50 or more to a local, state or national campaign fun

Board Members
League of Women Voters of Lexington
2019--2020

Convener: Margaret Coppe mecoppe@gmail.com 781-862-2637

Secretary: Taylor Singh taylorcarrollsingh@gmail.com 781-632-2208

Treasurer: Charles Hornig chornig@charleshornig.org 781-862-1112

Membership: Melinda Walker Melinda.walker@rcn.com 781-863-2024

Communications: Jeanne Canale j.canale@rcn.com 781-861-0287

Bulletin Editor: Wendy Manz wendy_manz@yahoo.com 781 863-1733

Voter Registration: Eileen Zalisk zaliisk@aol.com 617-285-0383

First Friday: Lisah Rhodes lisahrhodes@gmail.com 781-307-3116

Ingrid Klimoff: iklimoff@charleshornig.org 781-862-1112

Eileen Zalisk: zalisk@aol.com 617-285-0383

Webmaster: Gretchen Reisig greisig2015@gmail.com 781-652-8169

The Lexington League Bulletin will not publish in August 2020. We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the September 2020 LWV LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com prior to August 21.

