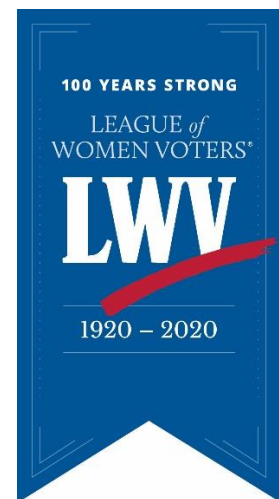




2019-20 Annual Report/Annual Meeting

Remotely Presented and Voted Upon Due to 2020 Executive Orders Issued by Governor Lamont in Response to the Coronavirus Public Health Crisis

- Membership Report
- Programs Report
- 2020 Bylaws Amendment - Members' Consent Sought
- Proposed 2020-2021 Programs – Members' Consent Sought
- Nominations for Election to the Board - Members' Consent Sought
- Proposed Budget - Members' Consent Sought



Is a quorum present? _____ # _____

League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford Board of Directors

Membership / Administrator - Libby Swietek	2019-2021
Treasurer - Cassie Bachman	2019-2021
Secretary, Voter Service - Carole Mulready	2019-2021
At-Large	
Doretta Andonucci (Social Media)	2018-2020
Sarah Hambrick (Communications, Membership)	2019-2021
Program - Karen Licht	2019-2021
June Rosenblatt (resigned April 2020)	2019-2021
Joan Twigg	2019-2020

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were approved by the Board at its meeting in June 2019.

Membership Report 2019 -2020

As of March 1, 2020, we have 98 members.

New 50-year members:

Jan Bruner
Rev. Sally Brown

In Memory of:

Miriam Butterworth
Winnie Moore
Emily Rankin

We Welcome New Members:

Teresa LaPenta- Duffek
Danielle Hubley
John Lyons
Deborah Ducoff- Barone
Ellen Thomas
Freda Turner
Patricia Moran
Leslie N Hammond
Jackie Rubell Johnson
Debbie Elman
Ava Biffer

Leo and Karen Harrington
Irene Scheibner
Madeleine Hexter
Mary Ellen Stanwick
Rhonda Heisler
Elizabeth Lane
Beth Owens
Wendy diCorcia

2019 Annual Meeting with Secretary of the State Denise Merrill

Secretary of the State and League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford Denise Merrill was our 2019 guest speaker. She gave us insights into her daily work, as well as how she earned national security clearance in order to be more active in protecting voters in our state. We are grateful to Secretary Merrill for her many years of service and commitment to promoting the rights of voters.

We also heard from Kathy Golas about a pending bottle bill. Connecticut's first bottle bill passed in the 1970s. The League was instrumental in getting that bill passed. But there have been no provisions since to increase payments to recycling companies since then. Several have closed as their profits have declined. Kathy has appeared before Legislators at Capitol to urge support. We are grateful to Kathy for her ongoing support in keeping us informed.



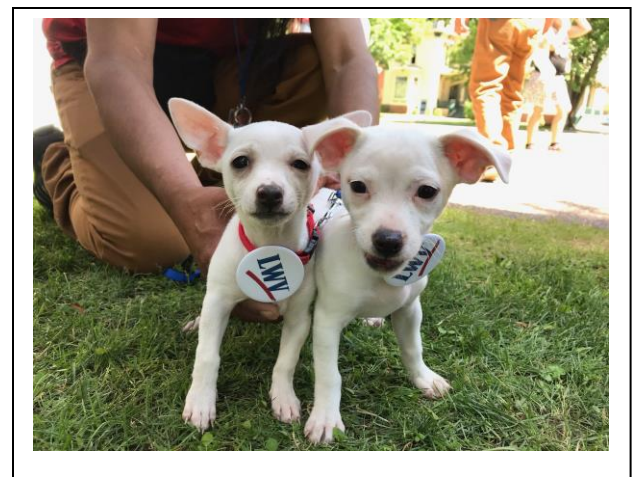
54th Anniversary of Voting Rights Act

On August 6, LWVGH joined leagues across the country in recognizing the 54th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Responding to a Call to Action from LWVUS, the LWVGH co-sponsored a rally held in West Hartford. The League distributed a fact sheet about the VRA of 1965 and why a new Voting Rights Act, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, is now needed following the 2013 Supreme Court decision *Shelby v. Holder*. West Hartford Town Councilor Ben Wenograd attended and remarked that it was good to see the League “out in the street.” We even registered a new voter!



Middletown LGBT Pride Event

On Saturday, June 15, 2019, the city of Middletown hosted its first ever LGBT Pride event. By all accounts, the event was a huge success! A parade marched down Main Street at 2 p.m. Before and after, the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce hosted a fair on the town green. LWVGH sponsored a booth and met individuals of all ages from across the region and the state. We re-connected with a few former members who took our information and promised to visit the state website. Several youths stopped by to collect our LWV buttons (trading buttons is a big part of Pride events), and stayed to hear about the League’s history and our ongoing work in voter protection. We even made a few canine friends.



Fall Potluck

Betsey Wingfield, the Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Quality at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, was the guest speaker at the Hartford League of Women Voters Potluck on September 10, 2019. She gave an interesting and informative talk about many issues important to voters.

She gave information on the increasing intensity of storms. One of Connecticut's towns had eight inches of rain in three hours this year leading to severe flooding. Several other towns had severe storms. She said it is very difficult to separate the effects of climate change from other factors that might cause the increase.

Ms. Wingfield showed the projections for sea level rise from climate change. In a scenario in which greenhouse gas emissions were moderately decreased, sea level rise was predicted to be two feet by 2100; in a business as usual scenario, the rise was much worse; in a scenario in which global warming was kept to below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), the sea level rise was much less.

She said an important achievement for this year's General Assembly was the passage of a state water plan for Connecticut. The State can now have a voice in projects such as taking water from the Bloomfield reservoir for bottled water.

Ms. Wingfield described the air monitoring system in Connecticut. We have several stations that monitor the quality. CT been able to reduce ozone pollution in the past decade. There is only so much CT can do about air pollution, however. The prevailing winds are from the west; much of our pollution come from states such as Pennsylvania's natural gas production and Ohio's coal-fired power plants.

Another topic that is currently a hazard, she mentioned, is PFAS chemicals getting into drinking water. These are long-lived chemicals that are hazardous in small amounts. These chemicals were used in non-stick frying pans. They are also present in fire-fighting foams.



Town Council Candidate Forum

A West Hartford Candidate Forum was held on October 10, 2019 at Charter Oak Academy. Cosponsored by the League and West Hartford Community Interactive, all 12 Town Council Candidates were featured in two panel sessions. Streamed by WHCI, the candidates answered questions submitted by a live audience.



Carole Mulready moderated both sessions, and League members served as timers.

Elected Officials Meet and Greet



Ari Steinberg, newly elected member of West Hartford Board of Education, joins in conversation about schools with League members Elisa McCarthy, Jean Blair, Leta Marks, and Carole Mulready.

The 2019 Elected Officials Meet and Greet was held on Nov. 17, 2019 at the home of past President Susan Fellman. New and incumbent officials from Hartford, West Hartford and Bloomfield were invited to meet with each other and League members in an informal setting.

Legislators Breakfast, Saturday, January 11, 2020

The League was honored to host our elected officials at our annual breakfast. Fifty members, guests and community members joined us in conversation as we prepared for the start of the next state legislative session. Topics included highway tolls, recycling and water policy along with the overall state budget and the 2020 census.



State Senator Derek Slap talks with former senator Nan Streeter and Carole Mulready



State Representatives Jillian Gilchrist (West Hartford) and Jane Garibay (Windsor)



Our Panel: Sandy Fry (Moderator), Rep. Matt Ritter (Hartford), Rep. Joe Verrengia (West Hartford 20), Sen. Derek Slap (Dist. 5), Rep. Jillian Gilchrist (West Hartford 18), Ed Vargas (Hartford 6), Jane Garibay (Windsor, Windsor Locks 60), Mike Demicco (Farmington 21). Not shown: Rep. Bobby Gibson (Bloomfield, Windsor 15), Sen. Matt Lesser (Dist. 9)



Libby Swietek introduced the moderator, Sandy Fry, and our guest panelists.



State Rep. Jane Garibay shared her position on recycling.



After listening attentively for an hour, members asked a number of good questions.



Sen. Lesser and Rep. Gibson



Former West Hartford Mayor and State Senator Nan Streeter posed several questions to the panel.

Voter Service Workshops

Two Voter Service Workshops were offered in January 2020, each workshop 1 ½ to 2 hours, in Town Hall of West Hartford. Topics included information about the many different levels of involvement needed for these voter services.



Setting up a Candidate Debate and Moderator Training

Wednesday, Jan. 29 6:30 p.m.

Deb Polun and Carole Mulready conducted the moderator training using LWVCT printed resources on preparing for the many different debate formats and relaying typical situations they have had during their extensive personal experiences as moderators.



Preparing Voters Guides and How to Register Voters

Thursday Jan. 30; 6:30 p.m.

Participants learned about ways to get involved in Voter Service leading up to the 2020 election. Topics for a Voters Guide included information about timelines needed, contacts to make, tasks to be completed, press releases, invitations to candidates, number of volunteers and more. Participants were guided through the process to effectively register voters through mail-in forms and online. LWVCT election related materials were also provided. Thirty-three people attended including 12 students from Community Partnerships of Ethel Walker School shown with faculty advisors Noel Grisanti and Dave Thacker and LWVGH presenter Carole Mulready.

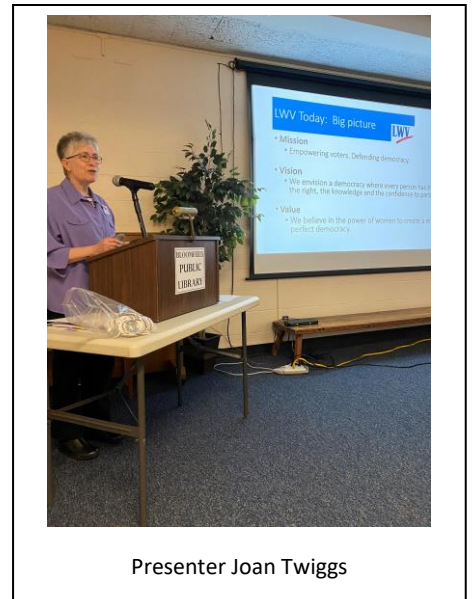


Women Power the Vote

Feb. 8, 2020 Prosser Public Library, Bloomfield, CT

The LWVGH was one of hundreds of Leagues that participated in the 2020 Women Power the Vote (WPV) initiative. The WPV initiative was called to recognize the 100th anniversary of the League's founding, February 14, 1920. Participating leagues integrated action into their events, culminating in a Day of Action on February 14.

On February 8, the LWVGH offered a Workshop co-sponsored by and held at Prosser Public Library in Bloomfield. Attended by 34 people, the event provided participants with an overview of the League's organizational structures, its principles, and positions. We used a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) perspective in recounting the League's history. We acknowledged the League's founding years and failure of our founders to embrace full voting rights for African American citizens. We then highlighted the 1970 Convention when delegates initiated a sea change by initiating a Bylaws amendment that ensured that Voting Rights for all citizens would forever be embedded and integrated within the



Presenter Joan Twiggs



Librarian Carol Lennig



League members and guests



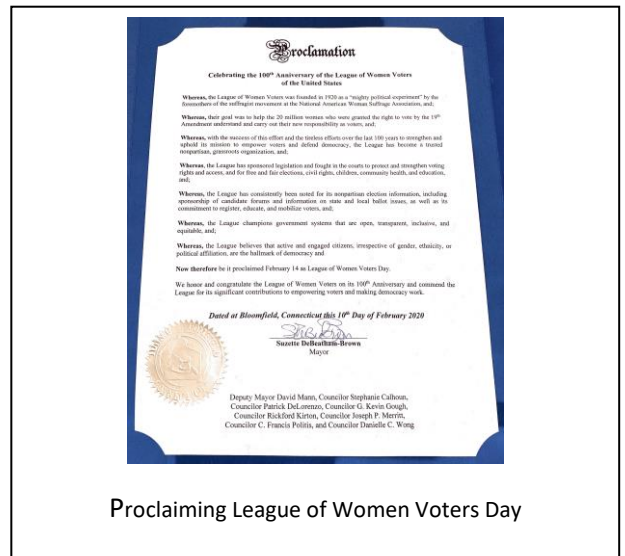
Presenter Carole Mulready

League’s positions and structures. We drew upon Impact on Issues and several LWVUS blog writings as our sources. We provided all participants with a copy of the LWV DEI policy as adopted in 2018 recognizing that diversity, equity and inclusion are central to the League’s present and future success in working to create a more perfect democracy.

Bloomfield Mayor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown opened the workshop with an inspirational call to action, particularly addressed to women. Several Town Councilors also attended and state Representative Bobby Gibson also joined us and offered thoughts about the short legislative session. Bloomfield Republican and Democratic Registrars attended and offered Voter Registration.

Participants were provided with a “take action” checklist of concrete actions they could take to help power the vote and were asked to let us know what actions they took.

On February 10, the Bloomfield Town Council issued a proclamation celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the LWV and establishing Friday, February 14 as “League of Women Voters Day”.



Proclaiming League of Women Voters Day

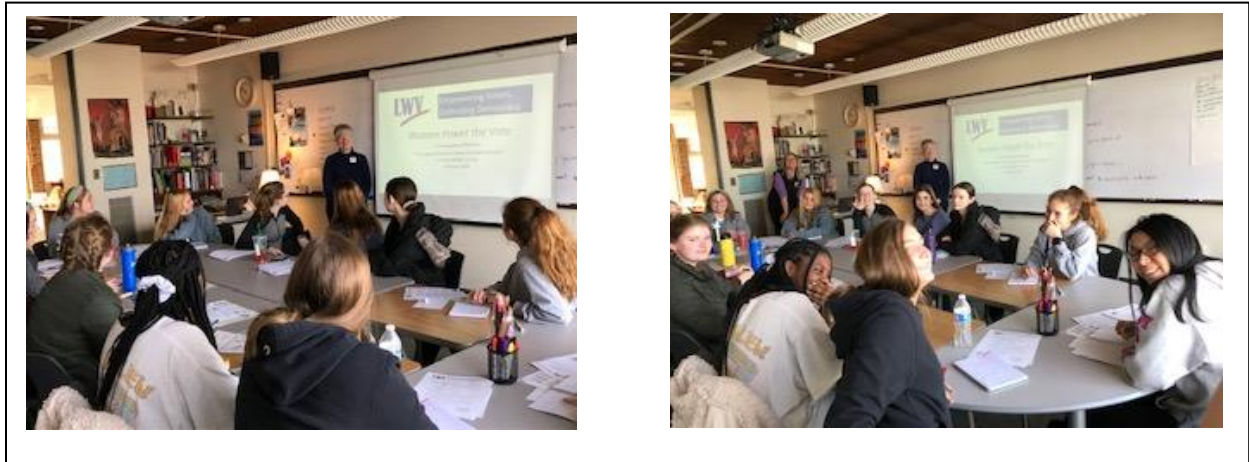


Bloomfield Mayor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown



Rep. Bobby Gibson

Presentation at Ethel Walker School



Our Women Power the Vote celebration concluded with a February 12 presentation to students of Ethel Walker School in Simsbury by program creator and LWVGH Board member Joan Twiggs. After the presentation, the students designed a checklist of things that young people can do to inform and 'power the vote' during the 100th Anniversary year of the founding of LWV.

It was a pleasure to work with Community Partnerships of Ethel Walker School students and faculty advisors Noel Grisanti and Dave Thacker.

100th Anniversary Celebration in Stamford

On Saturday, February 22, four members of the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford attended the 100th Celebration Gala in Stamford. Kay Maxwell worked with the state board to organize an evening of connecting, reflecting on our history, and hearing from local leaders. About 200 guests heard from Governor Lamont, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill and Senator Richard Blumenthal. Indra K. Nooyi, former Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo and now co-chair of AdvanceCT, was named Outstanding woman in Business. Juanita T. James, President and CEO of Fairfield County's Community Foundation, was named Outstanding Woman in Philanthropy.

Judge Nancy Gertner, retired Judge of the U.S. District Court and now professor of Harvard Law School, shared stories of her past work in the courts and her new work in training future lawyers. She encouraged us to remain vigilant in our work of protecting rights for voters.



Elisa McCarthy with some of the fabulous posters she prepared for the 90th.



We were proud to represent Greater Hartford



Cassie Bachman, Carole Mulready and Doretta Andonucci with LWVGH member Secretary of the State Denise Merrill



Cassie Bachman with Governor Ned Lamont

Due to the deadly nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the new rules of social distancing, LWVGH found it necessary to table all public events going forward from March 2020. Our hope is to re-schedule them when we can safely congregate again.

Postponed Events 2020:

- New Member Breakfast originally planned for March 14
- 100th Anniversary Recognition Event featuring Dr. Tracey Wilson, West Hartford Town Historian and LWV member. This event was to be held March 24 in collaboration with University of St. Joseph, West Hartford Historical Society, and the Noah Webster House
- Annual Dinner Meeting originally scheduled for April 16 with Guest Speaker the Honorable Richard Blumenthal

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

In order to authorize our membership to attend remote meetings and exercise their voting privileges remotely, the Board seeks approval of proposed amendments to our bylaws. The amendments are to Article VII Meetings and state:

Section 4. Remote Participation in a Meeting. Any one or more members, or all, of this League may participate in a meeting by means of email communications, mail communications via the United States Postal Service, telephone conference call, videoconference, or similar remote communications allowing all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other over the course of the meeting. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 5. Members' Consent Without a Meeting: If a majority of this League's members consent in writing, whether conveyed by U.S. mail, electronic transmission or any comparable method, to any action(s) to be taken by this League, such action(s) will be valid corporate action(s) as though it or they had been authorized at a general membership meeting. The Secretary will note such consents in the Minutes of the next general meeting or Board meeting immediately following the vote.

Please note that the complete Bylaws with the proposed amendments are provided on our Facebook page, website, and are attached to the 2020 Annual Meeting mailing. A hard copy for any member is available upon request to the Board at lwvgreaterhartford@gmail.com or LWVGH PO Box 270191, West Hartford, CT 06127.

PROPOSED LEAGUE PROGRAMS 2020-2021

No study in place at this writing, but things to watch going forward:

- **Transparency in Government** - Watch
- **Voting Rights** – Support the Secretary of State’s Office in securing open and fair elections

Focus and activities for the year:

- Voter Service - Voters Guides for member towns as requested and practicable; sponsor debates
- A finance drive will be conducted to support Voters Guides
- Hold a calendar/program planning in June
- Hold a potluck supper with program in September
- Hold an elected officials’ reception in November or December
- Hold a Legislators’ Breakfast in January
- Hold an annual meeting and dinner in May
- Distribute information electronically via e-mail and our website
- Publish League’s Annual Report
- Hold program meetings as warranted and from results of June planning
- LWV 100th Anniversary Celebration Activities

Collaborate with others

- Coordinate activities throughout the year with the Windsor League and New Britain when interests merge.
- Collaborate with other groups as positions allow.

PROPOSED BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

Administrator - Libby Swietek	(2019-2021)
Treasurer - Cassie Bachman	(2019-2021)
Secretary - Doretta Andonucci	(2020-2022)
Membership - Libby Swietek	(2019-2021)

Committees

Communications, Member Database - Sarah Hambrick	(2019-2021)
Communications, Social Media - Doretta Andonucci	(2020-2022)
Voter Service - Carole Mulready	(2019-2021)
Program - Karen Licht	(2019-2021)
Advocacy - Joan Twiggs	(2020-2022)

PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-2021

INCOME AND EXPENSES

	Budget 2018-2019	Actual 2018-2019	Budget 2019-2020	Actual 2019-2020	Budget 2020-2021
Income					
Beginning Balance	\$8,500.00	\$9,163.71*	\$9,000.00	\$9,545.61***	\$9,600.00
Dues	\$3,500.00	\$3,410.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,295.00	\$3,500.00
Finance Drive	\$1,700.00	\$2,389.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,415.00	\$2,000.00
Deposit from the ED Fund	\$ 800.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$830.00	\$900.00
Voter Services	\$1,000.00	\$875.00	\$500.00	\$300.00	\$500.00
Poll reporting	0	\$1,075.00	\$700.00	0	\$700.00
Annual Meeting	\$1,800.00	\$1,850.00*	\$ 2,000.00	0	\$2,000.00
Cash Donation	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$25.00	\$25.00
Grant	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total	\$17,300.00	\$19,662.71	\$19,000.00	\$15,610.61	\$16,815.00
Expenses					
<i>Meetings</i>					
Annual Meeting (Pond House)	\$2,000.00	\$1,899.48**	\$2,000.00	0	\$2,000.00
Annual Meeting Invitation Printing		0		0	\$100.00
Legislative Breakfast - Food	\$50.00	\$177.56	\$200.00	\$137.93	\$150.00
Legislative Breakfast - Room Fee		\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Potluck – Supplies	\$50.00	\$65.71	\$60.00	\$65.71	\$70.00
Potluck – Room Fee		\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Reception for Elected Officials	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$200.00	\$97.33	\$125.00
New Member Meeting	\$100.00	\$68.39	\$100.00	0	\$100.00
<i>Voter Service</i>					
Voter Service	\$500.00	\$499.82	\$500.00	\$26.57	\$500.00
Voter Guide	\$2,000.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,200.00
LWV Publications	\$200.00	0	\$200.00	\$245.11	\$200.00
Civic Engagement Projects	\$1,000.00	0	\$300.00	\$76.89	\$200.00
<i>League Business</i>					
Incorporation	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
PMP CT	\$1,200.00	\$1,155.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,117.50	\$1,200.00
PMP LWV US	\$2,500.00	\$2,208.00	\$2,220.00	\$2,144.00	\$2,220.00
Contributions/Gifts	\$200.00	\$24.83	\$25.00	\$7.00	\$125.00
Conventions	\$800.00	0	\$800.00	\$160.00	\$1,000.00
PO Box Rental fee		\$122.00	\$150.00	\$122.00	\$150.00
Printing	\$250.00	\$210.80	\$250.00	\$178.21	\$250.00
Postage	\$500.00	\$337.37	\$300.00	\$158.60	\$300.00
Supplies	\$200.00	\$82.93	\$100.00	\$47.69	\$200.00
Web Design	\$400.00	0	\$400.00	\$460.00	\$400.00
League Liability Insurance		\$12.00	\$20.00	to be paid	\$20.00
Return to LWV Ed Fund error (onetime line item)		\$1,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fee to File 990 N form (onetime item)		\$39.95	N/A	N/A	N/A
D&O Liability Insurance				\$300.00	\$300.00
Total Expenses	\$12,050.00	\$9,078.84	\$10,125.00	\$7,244.54	\$11,010.00
*as of April 2018 **As of May 30, 2019 ***As of April 27, 2020 will increase by \$823 (see below)					

PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-2021

EDUCATION FUND

ED Fund					
Beginning Balance LWV US	\$363.45	\$363.45	\$226.45	\$226.45	\$226.45
Contributions – Finance Drive	\$800.00	\$763.00	\$800.00	\$226.45	\$800.00
Withdrawals	- \$800.00	- \$900.00	- \$800.00	-\$830.00****	-\$800.00
Balance	\$363.45	\$226.45	\$226.45	\$226.45	\$226.45
****To be requested the week of April 27, 2020					

The Proposed budget was submitted by the Finance Committee comprised of Karen Licht, Chairperson, Carole Mulready, Member, and Cassie Bachman, Treasurer.