



2020-2021 Annual Meeting
May 4, 2021 6:30 p.m.

Welcome

Business Meeting:

- Announcements
- Membership Report
- Annual Report
- Bylaws Updates
- Proposed Advocacy Agenda
- Proposed Programs
- Nominations
- Treasurer's Report
- Proposed Budget
- Other Business

Guest Speaker: Senator Richard Blumenthal

League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford Board of Directors

Administrator – Libby Swietek	2019-2021
Membership – Libby Swietek	2019-2021
Secretary – Doretta Andonucci	2020-2022
Treasurer – Cassie Bachman / Karen Licht*	2019-2021

Committees

Advocacy – Joan Twiggs	2020-2022
Communications (Membership) – Sarah Hambrick	2019-2021
Communications (Social Media) – Doretta Andonucci	2020-2022
Program – Karen Licht	2019-2021
Voter Service – Carole Mulready	2019-2021
At Large – Cassie Bachman *	2020-2022

Cassie Bachman moved out of state in 2020, so Karen Licht completed her term as Treasurer. Ms. Bachman returned in 2021 as a member-at-large.

Credentials Report (based on electronic survey results:

Number of members present _____

There is / is not a quorum. _____

Results of the 2020 Annual Meeting were approved by the Board at its meeting in June 2020.

Membership Report 2020 -2021

As of March 1,2021, we have 108 members.

New 50-year members:

Barbara Blechner

Shirley Zelman

In Memory of:

Alice Kugelman

Mary Ellen Thibodeau

Frances Thompson

We wished a **Happy Birthday** to former board member **June Rosenblatt** through a car parade.



We Welcome New Members:

William Ball

Alison Buckley

Nina Gero

Ruth Goldbaum

Emily Hofstatter

Theresa LaPenta-Duffek

Patricia Moran

Patricia Niemann

Maureen O'Doherty

David Pettyjohn

Margaret Pulito

Ishrat Iman Quadri MD

Natalie Real

Meher Shulman

Dami Singh

Rosemary Wallace

2020-2021 Annual Report

LWVGH meetings have been virtual since March 21, 2020 to adhere to Connecticut and the CDC's guidelines to prevent the spread of the Covid 19 Virus. The virtual meetings included all regularly scheduled meetings with the exception of the Elected Officials Reception that is held in November.

2020 Annual Meeting / May 3, 2020

Since we could not meet in person, our 2020 annual meeting was conducted through email and the U.S. Postal Service. (League members are both committed and innovative!) It was not the intention of the Board to hold remote meetings as a routine practice, but COVID-19 certainly put those intentions to the test. Pursuant to our Bylaws, the Annual Meeting must be completed by the end of May, and so Board and members came together as best we could.

Members received both the annual report and Bylaws with Proposed Amendments by email (or hard copy, as needed). Members were asked to vote on four agenda items:

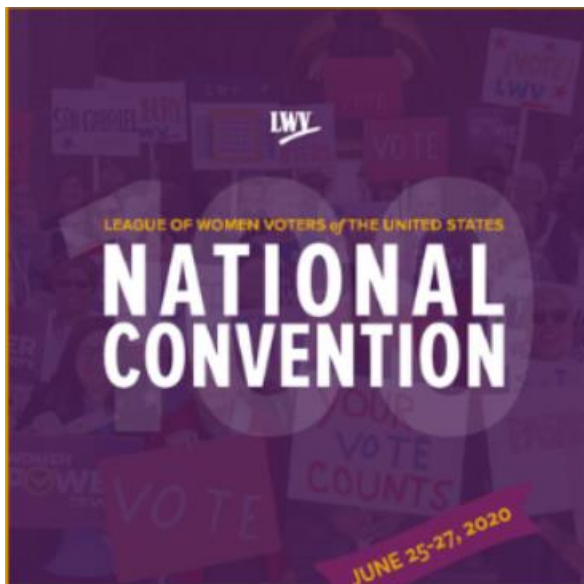
1. In order to authorize our membership to attend remote meetings and exercise their voting privileges remotely, the Board sought approval of proposed Bylaws amendments. (The amendments add new sections.)
2. The Board sought approval of the proposed programs.
3. The Board sought approval of the proposed slate of officers and Board members.
4. The Board sought approval of the proposed 2020 budget.

All four items were passed by a vote of our membership.

National Convention / June 25-27, 2020

Several of our board members attended the bi-annual national convention, in part dedicated to celebrating the League's 100th anniversary. Following CDC recommendations, the entire convention was held virtually. In addition to attending various interesting sessions and hearing from National CEO and Hartford native Virginia Kase, attendees welcomed the new National President, Dr. Deborah Turner.

The LWVUS Governance and DEI Committees held a webinar on November 12, 2020 to discuss the amendment made to the LWVUS Bylaws at the 2020 Convention that requires all Leagues to have a DEI policy. Our Greater Hartford chapter has proposed an update to our bylaws for membership to vote on as part of our May 2021 annual meeting.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

2020 Census and Parade / June 2020

As part of year-long efforts to encourage participation in the 2020 census, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz hosted a state-wide car parade with stops in League chapters across the state were invited to participate. Our chapter was happy to wrap up the tour in Hartford.



LWVGH member Joan Twiggs joined Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz in Hartford.

New Member Meeting / July 18, 2020

The meeting was postponed from March this year due to the pandemic. Seven new members attended. The discussion focused on programs to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and opportunities to assist with voter services related to the upcoming presidential election.

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Woman's Suffrage in Connecticut / September 15, 2020

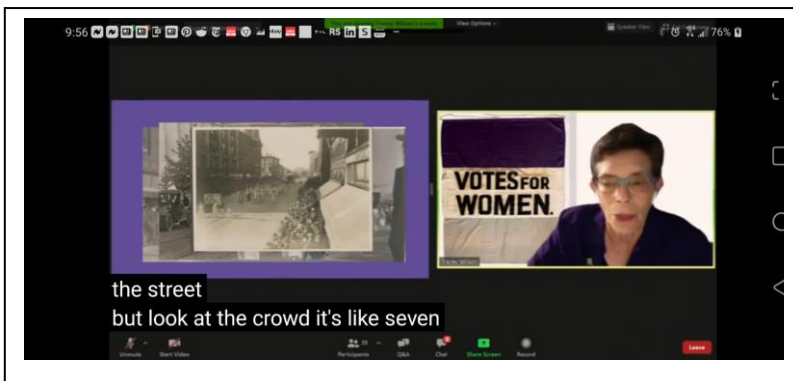
The Connecticut Centennial Celebration of women getting the vote occurred throughout 2020. This year also marked the beginning of the League of Women Voters, the establishment of which grew out of the suffrage movement.



The public was invited to join the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford via Webinar on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 5:30 pm for an interesting discussion of suffrage in the greater Hartford area.

September 15 was the 100th anniversary of Connecticut's Governor Holcomb calling the legislature into session to add Connecticut's name to the list of states that approved the 19th Amendment.

Dr. Tracey Wilson spoke about the history of the Connecticut woman's suffrage movement and the League of Women Voters through the lives of Hartford area women. Dr. Wilson, West Hartford's Town Historian and a member of the League of Women Voters, focused on the involvement of the activists in multiple issues as she analyzed their leadership tactics and strategies. There were Q&A



opportunities through the chat feature of the Webinar. The Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society and West Hartford Community Interactive (WHCi) co-sponsored this program.

Voter Registration event in Hartford / September 30, 2020

LWVGH was glad to be included with a team of Hartford residents, students, activists and other organizations to conduct a Voter Registration and Census response event in Hartford on September 30, 2020. Carole Mulready and Joan Twiggs set up a voter registration table on a windy day at the Hartford downtown bus stop at Main Street. We registered 14 people from Hartford and surrounding towns – including a bus driver. We learned that the bus stop is a great location for voter registration. We extended our reach when one woman with whom we spoke took LWVCT voter registration leaflets to give to friends.



Volunteers from across the region came to help register new voters.



Carole Mulready joined other volunteers in front of Hartford Public Library.

First Congressional District Debate / October 19, 2020



The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford (LWVGH) and West Hartford Community Interactive (WHCI) invited our greater community to participate in a debate among the three candidates seeking to represent the First Congressional District of Connecticut. This was a federal election. The candidates were, in alphabetical order, Mary Fay (R), John Larson (D), and Tom McCormick (G).



WHC-TV live streamed the debate and recorded it for additional showings after the event. As an additional voter service, West Hartford Community Interactive media arranged for concurrent live programming with its sister public access stations throughout the first Congressional region.



Due to the concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus, the debate was held virtually via ZOOM. The format included prepared questions with responses and rebuttal allowed. The public was able to participate via the Q&A option of a webinar. True to the unpredictability of COVID times, the program was zoom-bombed through the Q&A. Nothing of the obnoxious language of the interloper was heard by the audience. After a few very hectic minutes the bomber was cut off. The candidates conducted themselves very well and LWV moderator Carole Mulready was able to move the debate forward.



John Larson won reelection.

Registering Voters During a Pandemic? Absolutely! / October 27, 2020

Sharon Conway and Carole Mulready were ready to help register new voters at this Barbour Street Library event. Hartford Healthcare was there doing COVID-19 testing. We were grateful for our League face masks with silk screened VOTE across the front.



Carole Mulready and Sharon Conway proudly wore the purple and white VOTE sashes, commemorative of the suffragist colors.

Potluck Meeting / October 28, 2020

Our guest speakers were Tracey Wilson, West Hartford Town Historian, and Sandra Fry, Project Manager for Re-Imagining Main Street.

Tracey told us about Louise Duffy an early 20th century women's rights advocate and a founder of the League of Women Voters of West Hartford. Sandra described the redesign of Main St. in Hartford from State House Square to the South Green area. The plan includes pedestrian and bicycle amenities, improving transit access to link Hartford to other destinations, and a new parking system.

The meeting ended with a toast to recognize 100 years of supporting democracy.



Celebrating 100 Years of History / October 25, 2020

Hilary Silver helped organize several League members to encourage folks to vote as we continued to celebrate the League’s history. We were represented in Veterans Memorial Park in the center of town, as well as at the exit to I-84 on Park Road.



Leta Marks at LWVGH voter registration in West Hartford Center. Trump rally in the background.



Leta Marks and Carole Mulready wearing suffragist white, with Rosemary Wallace



Our VOTE masks were a big hit!



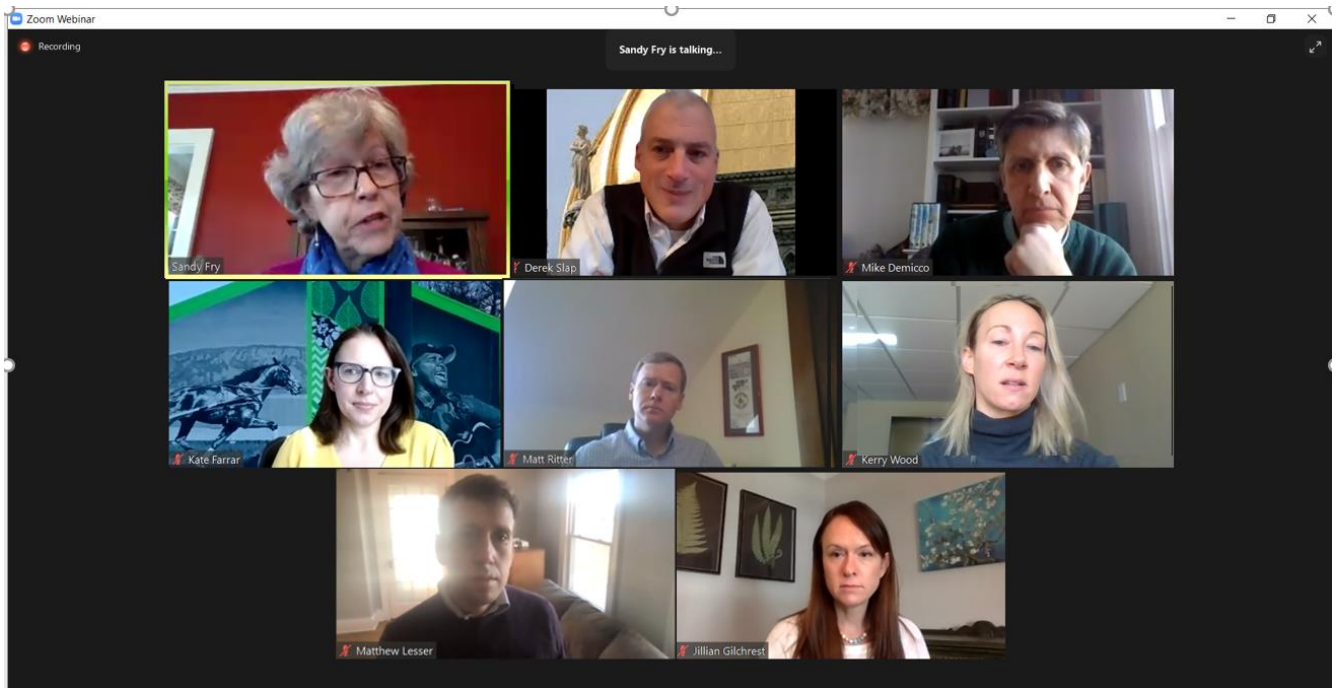
Libby Swietek, Ilze Krisst, Natalie Real and Hilary Silver at the Park Road, I 84 exit, represent the history of 100 years of voting for Women

Legislative Webinar / January 9, 2021

West Hartford Community Interactive (WHCI) set up the webinar for us. Newly elected and re-elected state officials from towns where our members reside were invited. They talked about their legislative focus for 2021.

Rep. Mike Demicco, Rep. Kate Farrar, Rep. Jillian Gilcrest, Sen. Matt Lesser, House Speaker Matt Ritter, and Senator Derek Slap participated in the meeting.

Many topics were covered from COVID relief to budget to environmental issues. Members were urged to continue the practice of following issues that come before the legislature in the session and contacting legislators to express your support or concerns about specific legislation. Email is probably the most efficient method to contact legislators. The legislative session ends on June 9.



New Member Meeting / March 13, 2021

Eight new members were welcomed by LWVGH elected officers and committee chairs. New members described their interest in rank choice voting, voter service activities, advocacy, and working on our new website.

2020-2021 Advocacy

Much of the advocacy of Greater Hartford League members this past year related to successful efforts to expand access to absentee voting because of the pandemic. League members from across the area contacted their state representatives and submitted testimony in support. This year action on voting rights continues in support of Early Voting and No Excuse Absentee Voting. In addition to direct action on these issues, League members shared information and LWV materials with other local advocacy networks. LWVGH Board member Joan Twiggs supported LWVCT advocacy efforts by drafting LWVCT testimony on the topic of prison-based gerrymandering and by preparing an analysis of the usage of absentee voting in the 2020 election. Interested in being part of the Advocacy team? Contact Joan Twiggs at joan.twiggs.home@gmail.com .
Advocacy Blurb for Annual Report [highlights show edits]

Our New Website

We are relaunching our website lwggh.org, with the help of several of our members and the My League Online team in California. Donations and membership dues can now be paid through our website. Going forward, the site will be maintained by a team of members. If you would like a tour of our site, feel free to contact Doretta Andonucci or any member of the Board.

The screenshot shows the website header with the LWV logo (League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford) and the slogan "MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK". Below the header is a navigation bar with the tagline "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy." and a menu with options: "View published", "View draft", "Edit draft", "Group", and "Moderate". A sidebar on the left contains a list of menu items: "★ GREATER HARTFORD", "★ JOIN US", "★ NEWS & EVENTS", "★ VOTER RESOURCES", "★ ACTION ALERTS", "★ ABOUT US", "★ DONATE", and "★ MEMBERS-ONLY". Below the sidebar is a blue button labeled "ADMINISTER LEAGUE SITE MENU". A large red circular button with the word "DONATE" is positioned below the sidebar. The main content area features a carousel image of a man holding an American flag, with a text overlay that reads "Learn about the League" and "About LWV". Below the carousel is the text "Greater Hartford".

Proposed Changes to Our Bylaws

The League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford has two proposed changes to the bylaws.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Language

Following the addition of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Policy by LWWVUS at the 2020 National Convention, the Executive Board of LWVGH has voted to adopt the same to our local policy statement, and propose to include new language to our Bylaws, by which, approval of the Membership is required. The Language to be added to LWVGH is:

ARTICLE II- PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 2

2. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.

The League is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with LWWVUS' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

Bylaws Amendment from LWWVUS 2020 Convention

Add Revised Language to Articles I, II, III to Provide Continuity with LWWVUS Bylaws

Per LWWVUS, all Leagues should have the first three articles of their bylaws mirror LWWVUS bylaws as they pertain to the organization and membership.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVGH.

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Policies

Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVGH are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2. Policies. The policies of the LWVGH are:

1. **Political Policy.** The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
2. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.** The League is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with LWVUS' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVGH shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Types of Membership.

A. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS;

(1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;

(2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;

(3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues;

(4) Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part time with an accredited institution.

B. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Note: LWVGH will be updating a previously unidentified student member category to Sec.2, *Voting Members* in accordance to current practice.

2021-2022 Advocacy Agenda

In general, our agenda follows the priorities of the Connecticut league. This year action on voting rights continues in support Early Voting and No Excuse Absentee Voting. The national People Powered Fair Maps campaign will also be an issue for our League as each state re-draws its federal and state district maps. Our League is planning a Day of Action on April 29 in conjunction with leadership from State. Finally, the 2021 “Bottle Bill” is something LWVGH will support through advocacy and communications.

2021-2022 Program Agenda

LWVGH meetings have been virtual since March 21, 2020 to adhere to Connecticut and the CDC’s guidelines to prevent the spread of the Covid 19 Virus. The virtual meetings included all regularly scheduled meetings with the exception of the Elected Officials Reception that is held in November.

Announcements of virtual or in person meetings will be made for 2021-2022 in accordance with the state’s pandemic guidelines.

Proposed Board of Directors 2021-2022

Administrator – Libby Swietek	2021-2023
Membership – Libby Swietek	2021-2023
Secretary – Doretta Andonucci	2020-2022
Treasurer – Karen Licht	2021-2023

Committees

Advocacy – Joan Twiggs	2020-2022
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Program – Karen Licht	2021-2023
Voter Service – Carole Mulready	2021-2023

League of Women Voters Greater Hartford Budget 2021-2022

	Budget 2019-2020	Actual 2019-2020	Budget 2020-2021	Actual 2020-2021	Budget 2021-2022
Income					
Beginning Balance	\$9,000.00	\$9,545.61	\$9,600.00	\$9593.72*	\$9,800.00
Dues	\$3,500.00	\$3,295.00	\$3,500.00	\$4015.00	\$4200.00
Finance Drive/Donations	\$2,500.00	\$1,415.00	\$2,000.00	\$2454.00	\$2500.00
Deposit from the ED Fund	\$900.00	\$830.00	\$900.00	\$830.00	\$850.00
Voter Services	\$500.00	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$779.00**	\$200.00
Poll reporting	\$700.00	0	\$700.00	\$1880.00	\$600.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 2,000.00	0	\$2,000.00	0	\$1500.00
Cash Donation	N/A	\$25.00	\$25.00	0	0
Grant	N/A	\$200.00	\$200.00	0	0
Mask refund LWVCT				\$135.00	0
Total	\$19,000.00	\$15,610.61	\$16,815.00	\$19686.72	\$19,650.00
Expenses					
<i>Meetings</i>					
Annual Meeting (Pond House)	\$2,000.00	0	\$2,000.00	0	\$2000.00
Annual Meeting Invitation Printing		0	\$100.00	\$152.71	\$50.00
Legislative Breakfast - Food	\$200.00	\$137.93	\$150.00	0	\$175.00
Legislative Breakfast - Room Fee	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	0	\$75.00
Pot Luck – Supplies	\$60.00	\$65.71	\$70.00	0	\$50.00
Pot Luck – Room Fee	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	0	\$75.00
Reception for Elected Officials	\$200.00	\$97.33	\$125.00	0	\$100.00
New Member Meeting	\$100.00	0	\$100.00	0	\$100.00
<i>Voter Service</i>					
Voter Service	\$500.00	\$26.57	\$500.00	\$1069.23**	\$100.00
Voter Guide	\$900.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,200.00	0	\$500.00
LWV Publications	\$200.00	\$245.11	\$200.00	0	0
Civic Engagement Projects	\$300.00	\$76.89	\$200.00	56.08	\$50.00
<i>League Business</i>					
Incorporation	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
PMP CT	\$1,200.00	\$1,117.50	\$1,200.00	\$1150.00	\$1300.00
PMP LWV US	\$2,220.00	\$2,144.00	\$2,220.00	\$2208.00	\$2300.00
Contributions/Gifts	\$25.00	\$7.00	\$125.00	\$150.00	\$100.00
Conventions	\$800.00	\$160.00	\$1,000.00	\$100.00	\$250.00
PO Box Rental fee	\$150.00	\$122.00	\$150.00	\$134.00	\$140.00
Printing	\$250.00	\$178.21	\$250.00	\$205.86	\$200.00
Postage	\$300.00	\$158.60	\$300.00	\$442.07	\$225.00
Supplies	\$100.00	\$47.69	\$200.00	\$74.17	\$125.00
Website	\$400.00	\$460.00	\$400.00	\$600.00	\$400.00
League Liability Insurance	\$20.00	0	\$20.00	0	0
Zoom				\$129.00	\$150.00
Refund overpay Dues				\$30.00	0
D&O Liability Insurance		\$300.00	\$300.00	\$336.00	\$350.00
Total Expenses	\$10,125.00	\$7,244.54	\$11,010.00	\$6887.12	\$6865.00
ED Fund					
Beginning Balance LWV US	\$226.45	\$226.45	\$226.45	\$1056.45	\$1011.47
Contributions – Finance Drive	\$800.00	\$830.00	\$800.00	\$785.02	\$800.00
Withdrawals	- \$800.00	-830.00****	-\$800.00	-\$830.00	\$1500.00
Balance	\$226.45	\$226.45	\$226.45	\$1011.47	311.47

**Vote Masks *Balance May 1, 2020