



BULLETIN May, 2020

LEAGUE IN A TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

The Coronavirus is still with us, and the League, like most of the communities in our lives, is becoming more creative in finding ways to get together remotely. Instead of publishing a rather meager Bulletin, we've found that there is a lot going on, mostly on Zoom and other online meeting platforms. We will keep you posted here.

UPCOMING IN THE LEXINGTON LEAGUE

May 2020 First Friday Forum: 2020 Census

On Friday, May 1, 2020, at 9:30 am, the Lexington League will present its First Friday Forum on the 2020 Census, with Carly Bari, Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, and Nathalie Rice, Lexington Town Clerk. Because Cary Library is closed and group meetings are limited, the forum will be held as a Zoom meeting.

Carly Bari works on outreach/education for the Census Bureau, focused in Middlesex County. She and Nathalie Rice will discuss the significance of the Census to Lexington, as well as changes in deadlines and procedures resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principle of self-government. The League works to promote informed and active participation of citizens in government. All League programs are free and open to all. This is the seventh of the 2019-2020 First Friday Forums offered to the public.

For information on how to participate on line, go to:
<http://www.lwvlexington.org/FirstFriday.html>. Bring your own coffee!

June 2020 First Friday Forum:
Lexington's Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

On Friday, June 5, 2020, at 9:30 am, Melissa Interest, LICSW, Lexington Director of Human Services, and representatives of the Lexington Public Schools and local private organizations will discuss responses to essential human service needs during the coronavirus emergency. They will describe available resources and strategies for reaching local residents despite social distancing and the Governor's advisory to stay at home.

Panel members will include Usha Thakrar (Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry), Johnny Cole (Director of Equity and Student Support for the Lexington Public Schools), and Ragini Pathak and Harshini Joshi (Lexington Neighbor Brigade).

The Forum will take place on Zoom. For information about how to use Zoom for remote participation, contact Lisah Rhodes at lwvlexington@gmail.com in advance of the meeting. Basic instructions will be found at <http://www.lwvlexington.org/FirstFriday.html>.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principle of self-government. The League works to promote informed and active participation of citizens in government. Its programs are free and open to all. For more information contact Convenor Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com.

Update on Lexington Events for the 100th Anniversary Year

* The Lexington League's presentation on League History and Women's Suffrage on the **Cary Memorial Library "Idea Wall"** will go forward in July and August if the Library is able to reopen by then.

* The Lexington League has planned to co-sponsor two other events with Cary Library for July and August if the Library is able to reopen.:

> **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 and the passage of the 19th Amendment, as well as in campaigns in support of women's labor organizations and the right of women to own property. This performance is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 5**.

LEXINGTON LEAGUE CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Lexington League Convenor Margaret Coppe has issued a call to Annual Meeting for the local League. It will be held on May 4, 2020 at 7:30 pm via Zoom video conference. As in-person gatherings are not feasible at this time, this year's Annual Meeting will not feature a speaker or other program.

The agenda will include the Treasurer's Report and projected Budget for 2020-2021, the presentation of a nominations slate, the election of officers and directors, and directions to the Board from the membership.

Slate of Nominations for LWV Lexington Officers and Directors

Convenor:	Margaret Coppe
Secretary:	Taylor Singh
Treasurer:	Charles Hornig
Membership Chair	Melinda Walker

Communications:	Jeanne Canale
Bulletin Editor:	Wendy Manz
Voter Registration:	Eileen Zalisk
First Friday Committee:	Ingrid Klimoff, Lisah Rhodes, Eileen Zalisk
Webmaster:	Gretchen Reisig

Members wishing to offer nominations from the floor or to submit written directions to the Board should contact Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com.

The draft Budget submitted by the Treasurer follows on the next page.

Thanks to a Departing Board Member

We would like to offer special thanks to Lisa Smith, who has served our League in a number of capacities, including Spokesperson and First Friday organizer. She is leaving us to join her husband in Chester, Vermont, where they have purchased a "country" store and will be enjoying living full time in the close-knit community where they have spent many summers. We wish them all happiness and success in their new venture! We will miss Lisa's support of our League, and hope to accept her invitation to stop by when we're in her new neighborhood.

DRAFT FY2021 Budget

Income	2020 Budget	2020 YTD	2021 Budget	Change
Dues - Regular	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,780.00	\$ 3,780.00	11%
Dues - Household	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00	0%
Contributions - Member	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 900.00	0%
Contributions - Non-member	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ -	
Phonathon	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	0%
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total	\$ 4,575.00	\$ 5,040.00	\$ 4,955.00	8%

Expense	2020 Budget	2020 YTD	2020 Budget	Change
Fees - Paypal	\$ 30.00	\$ 45.16	\$ 60.00	100%
Gifts	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	0%
Meetings - Annual	\$ 100.00	\$ 64.69	\$ 100.00	0%
Meetings - Candidate's Night	\$ 100.00	\$ 38.41	\$ 100.00	0%
Meetings - First Friday	\$ 400.00	\$ 134.44	\$ 600.00	50%
Meetings - National Convention	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Meetings - State Convention	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Office - PO Box	\$ 112.00	\$ 122.00	\$ 122.00	9%
Office - Supplies	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 25.00	
Office - Printing & Postage	\$ 150.00	\$ 80.11	\$ 150.00	0%
Office - Web Site	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	140%
PMP - National	\$ 2,176.00	\$ 2,176.00	\$ 2,176.00	0%
PMP - State	\$ 1,518.00	\$ 1,518.00	\$ 1,518.00	0%
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total	\$ 4,911.00	\$ 4,178.81	\$ 5,501.00	12%

Net Gain/Loss	\$ (336.00)	\$ 861.19	\$ (546.00)
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Cronin Lecture: "I Now Pronounce You Lucy Stone"

The Lexington League is co-sponsoring this year's Cronin Lecture with the Lexington Historical Society. The topic is Lucy Stone, the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree, and an ardent supporter of human rights, particularly women's rights, in both her personal and political life. Her campaigning predated the efforts of such better-known suffragists as Susan B. Anthony, and she is credited with inspiring thousands to join the movement. Her story will be brought to life by living historian and actress Judith Kalaora, highlighting Massachusetts' role in the fight for women's right to vote.

This webinar will take place on Saturday, May 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm- 8:30 pm. It is free and open to all. Registration is on the Historical Society website at: <https://www.lexingtonhistory.org/events.html>.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA COUNCIL, JUNE 13, 2020

The LWVMA Board has voted to hold its biannual Council by Zoom video conference on June 13. The business portion of the Council will include a financial update and a report on recent state League activity by new Executive Director Patricia Comfort.

Local League representatives will vote on a slate of nominees for officers and directors of the LWVMA Board for the 2020-2022 biennium. Additional nominations are permitted from the floor. Each local League is allotted a number of delegates to Council based on the size of its membership. Only delegates are permitted to vote on the state nominees, but all members of the League are welcome to attend.

Additional program details are being finalized, including speakers and break-out sessions.

LWVMA Birthday Gala Rescheduled to December

The festive gala to celebrate LWVMA's 100th birthday, originally scheduled for May 31, will now be held Sunday, Dec. 13. Mark your calendars! The event will be a brunch at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Norwood, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The featured speaker will be Dr. Danielle Allen of Harvard University. Professor Allen is widely known for her work on justice and citizenship and for *Cuz: An American Tragedy*, detailing the story of her cousin and the criminal justice system.

LWVMA 100th Anniversary Webinar Series

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the national League of Women Voters and the LWVMA, the state League is hosting a webinar series focusing on our history and our future. The webinars are free and open to the public, and most will be recorded and available from the LWVMA website, <http://lwwma.org>.



The next event is a talk by Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, author of *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*. She was president of the national LWV from 1998 to 2002, the only African-American woman to head the League. She is an authority on the voting rights of African-Americans and is currently a professor at the University of North Carolina. Her talk is Wednesday, May 6, at 7 pm. Registration is required and limited to 500 people. Register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xu0IijINSASstphja-gBU_w. (Copy here and paste it into your browser address.)



Historian and author Barbara Berenson will be presenting *After Suffrage: The Campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment, 1920 - 2020*. Her talk will be on Tuesday, June 2, at 7 pm. Registration is required and limited to 500 people. Register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DQwPMmzhSbevEov7WeUvOg. (Copy here and paste it into your browser address.)

VOTE411

LWVMA will be using [VOTE411](https://www.vote411.org) to create a Voter Guide for the fall 2020 primary and general elections. This guide will cover all Massachusetts congressional and state legislative elections (as well as Governor's Council and ballot questions). [VOTE411](https://www.vote411.org) offers complete election information (voter registration, deadlines, locations, etc.), and is sponsored by LWVUS.

Many League members include a link to voting related websites in their email signature when communicating with other League members to stress the importance of voting. LWVMA recommends using [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) if you wish to use such a signature. Websites referenced in League-related correspondence must be non-partisan, that is, not representing or funded by political parties (even if such websites provide voter information tools).

Update on Massachusetts Elections

There is tremendous concern about how Massachusetts will hold its Sept. 1 primary and Nov. 3 general elections in this time of pandemic. Our state currently has a very low (5%) vote-by-mail rate. To increase that to 50% or more will be difficult, as we lack the infrastructure to handle anything near a 95% mail-in ballot election. We must prioritize changes in our election infrastructure that are feasible to put in place in four months. Note that states such as Washington and Oregon, which do all their voting by mail, put those systems in place over several years as they developed the infrastructure to do so accurately and fairly. We need to do what is possible in the time allowed and in such a way that the elections are well-run so that voters have confidence in them.

LWVMA and its partners in the Election Modernization Coalition, including Common Cause, ACLU, MassVOTE, Massachusetts Voter Table, MASSPIRG and Progressive Massachusetts, are drafting a bill to deal with needed changes to Massachusetts election procedure. Those proposals will elaborate on the recommendations the Coalition previously made to the legislature.

Among the changes the League will be seeking are:

- Continuing to allow COVID-19 concerns to qualify as a "physical disability" excuse for an absentee ballot;
- Expanding vote-by-mail opportunities, including covering postage for requesting and returning ballots;
- Extending deadlines to ensure early access to ballots and to ensure that delayed mail does not result in disenfranchisement; and
- Printing mailed ballots in numerous languages.

Measures to make in-person voting safe for both voters and poll workers are also important.

The bill should be filed early in May, and the LWVMA will ask the support of members at that time. While the LWVMA Legislative Advocacy Committee is reviewing at least five other bills related to holding elections, the League is not supporting any at the present time.

At the federal level, LWVUS is taking action to assure that relief legislation includes the funding necessary for elections. Visit lww.org to learn more. On its website, LWVUS offers talking points on the League strategy of making voting more flexible and providing options such as vote by mail.



2020 Census - Still Counting

Outreach to ensure a complete Census count in Massachusetts continues. The Census Bureau plans to restart field operations on June 1 and has extended the enumeration deadline to October 31. The Census Bureau will seek Congressional approval to delay the reporting of the results to the President by 120 days.

The League is continuing to support outreach efforts in hard-to-count communities throughout Massachusetts. The following areas in Massachusetts are lagging in the count: the Cape and Islands; Western Massachusetts; and cities, such as Boston, Chelsea, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Medford, Fall River, Springfield, Worcester, Fall River, and New Bedford.

Here are some ways that individual League members can help:

- Post social media messages encouraging everyone to complete their census form. LWVMA and LWVUS regularly post messages you can share or repost.
- Write a letter to your local newspaper on the importance of the census.

Volunteer to Phone Bank to Increase the Count. MassCounts will continue to conduct phone banks through the end of June every Tuesday from 11 am -1 pm. and Thursday from 5-7 pm to call residents of census tracts with the lowest self-response rates. Please sign up to join a virtual phone bank. You'll need a computer and a cell phone; a 15-20-minute training and a script are provided. Please note you need to sign up for each day you would like to phone bank. Please contact Judy Zaunbrecher at jzaunbrecher@lwvma.org to register.

Collect Ranked Choice Voting Signatures

[Voter Choice for Massachusetts](#), the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) campaign, is now working on the required second round of signatures needed to get an RCV ballot question on the November ballot. The effort needs 13,374 valid signatures (not from people who signed petitions in the fall) by June 17.

LWVMA has supported ranked choice voting since 2005, and encourages our members to participate in this next required round of signature gathering. Voter Choice petitions will become available May 6.

If you would like to get involved to help safely gather signatures from your friends and neighbors, Voter Choice is offering a virtual training session exclusively for League members with the tools and training to support you. Please go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcod-mgpj4tE9Q-toBRhY8Xr8qJOkXONL4QM4h> (Copy here and paste it into your browser address line.) to register for this training for League members on Thursday, May 7, at 2 pm. If each League member gets five people to sign, we'll be close to the goal!

[LWV New England States Leadership Development Conference](#)

This conference, originally scheduled for April, 2020, was cancelled in response to the coronavirus pandemic. However, the conference organizers have coordinated a series of webinars covering the topics that were scheduled to be discussed at the in-person event. The first webinar, featuring LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase, was held in April.

Part two is a workshop with Yanna Krupnikov, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Stony Brook University. It will be held on Monday, May 4 at 2 pm. Professor Krupnikov will discuss the ways in which people form political opinions, make political choices, and take political action. Register for part two

Part three is a voter engagement panel featuring Professor Krupnikov, Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition Executive Director Mufalo Chitam, and New Hampshire senator Melanie Levesque. It will be held on Monday, May 11 at 2 pm. Register for part three

Part four is a conversation about how Leagues are handling the coronavirus pandemic and the challenges it presents for our elections. It will be held on Monday, May 18 at 2 pm. Register for part four [here](#)._



100th Anniversary LWVMA, LWVUS 19th Amendment



PROGRAMS CELEBRATING LOCAL WOMEN

Presented monthly by Freedom's Way National Heritage Association.

May 16 – Mary Rowlandson & Weetamoo – Lancaster, MA (Partner: Lancaster Trails Committee). As of April 30, this is scheduled as an in-person event.

Mary Rowlandson became famous for writing *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*, a path breaking captivity narrative. Weetamoo was the Squaw of the Sachem of Pocasset and was the owner of Mary during the war. This program will compare the experiences of these two women in the context of King Philip's War and will include a walk through the Rowlandson Garrison site and Rowlandson Rock where she spent the first night of her captivity.

* **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).

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 National Convention](#)

The League of Women Voters' 54th National Convention is still scheduled to be held on June 25-28, 2020, but as an on-line event. Business sessions will be held June 25-27, with consideration for all time zones involved. There will be a full plenary session, and the Parliamentarian is working to insure compliance with all League governance requirements, including those around registered delegates, quorums and participation procedure. Delegates will receive full instructions in advance.

All current registrants will receive a full refund, and will be notified by email. They will be given an option to convert their registration fees to donations to the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Hotel registrations may be canceled with no penalty and further information on how to claim refunds will be sent to delegates.

Registration for the virtual Convention will be open in early May, and LWVUS will provide further announcements and instructions as they become available. .

SAVE THE DATE

May, 1, 2020	LWV Lexington First Friday: Census	9:30 am online
May 4, 2020	LWV Annual Meeting	7:30 pm online
May 4, 2020	LWV N.E. States Leadership Conference: Webinar on political opinions and action	2:00 pm online
May 6, 2020	LWVMA Webinar: Women of Color in LWV	7:00 pm online
May 7, 2020	Ranked Choice Voting Training	2:00 pm online
May 11, 2020	N.E. States Leadership Conference: Voter Engagement	2:00 pm online
May 16, 2020	Freedom's Way Walk and Talk: Mary Rowlandson & Weetamoo	
May 18, 2020	LWV N.E. States Leadership Conference: Voting during the COVID-19 pandemic	2:00 pm online
May 23, 2020	Cronin Lecture: Lucy Stone	7:00 pm online
June 2, 2020	LWVMA Webinar: Campaign for the ERA	7:00 pm online
June 5, 2020	LWV Lexington First Friday: Pandemic	9:30 am online
June 13, 2020	LWVMA Council	Online
June 25-28, 2020	LWV National Convention	Online
July 28, 2020	Cary Library lecture: Alice Paul	
August 5, 2020	Cary Library lecture: Susan B. Anthony	
September 1, 2020	Massachusetts Primary	
November 3, 2020	National Presidential and Congressional Election	
December 13, 2020	LWVMA 100th Birthday Gala	1:00-3:00 pm

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League of Women Voters of Lexington
2019--2020**

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We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the June 2020 LWV LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com prior to May 22.