



Bulletin

Spring 2020

“Empowering Voters – Defending Democracy”

Spring Message

This issue was to have featured the LWVVT's Spring Lecture on March 21, and the 14th Annual New England Regional Leadership Development Conference in April. Unfortunately, thanks to COVID-19, both of these highly anticipated events were cancelled. The Spring Lecture, featuring journalist and author Garrett Graff has been rescheduled for May 30. See the resurrected *Green Mountain Citizen*, out next week.

On the (much) brighter side: in our last issue we reported that LWVCEN members had applied for LWVUS Education Fund pass-through grants. In this issue, we can announce that Anne Mixer was awarded a \$500 grant to support registering eligible high school students to vote, and Madeline Motta received \$1,000 through the LWVVT in support of the state League's program registering new citizens to vote.

The Centennial Gala is over, but the celebration of women's suffrage continues with many events still to come, brought to you by the Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance, capably led by LWVVT President (and LWVCEN member) Sue Racanelli. Check out their website at vtsuffrage2020.org, to find out what's happening through the year.

We are pleased to welcome Rilla Murray to our Leadership Team. Rilla comes to us through the High School Voter Registration project.

Meanwhile, we remain on hold for the duration. Had planned to tell you at least the date of our Annual Meeting, usually held the first week in May. Now, we can't be sure we'll be able to gather then. We'll keep you posted as we all work our way through this trying – and worrying – time.

Wash your hands!

Kate Rader
For the LWVCEN Leadership Team

High School Project Update

The LWVVT High School Registration Project got under way in January with opportunities to visit schools in a number of districts. League members registered eligible voters at Montpelier High School, Woodstock High School, Mt Abraham High School in Bristol and more recently, Lake Region High School in Orleans, Vermont.

In addition, another volunteer training was conducted at Kellogg-Hubbard Library on January 24th. Interest in this project is high and many of those who were trained have become LWVVT members. The Grant now has up to 15 trained League members who are looking forward to visiting schools and other sites with this project.

Unfortunately, plans to register students at Lamoille Union High School in Hyde Park the beginning of April have been postponed indefinitely. Given that schools and other settings are closed, there are no current planned activities supported by the Grant.

When League members are able to reenter institutions, in addition to high schools, there is ongoing interest from the Capstone sites in both Barre and Morrisville. Vocational programs and higher education settings are other potential sites with particular emphasis on the Community Colleges of Vermont.

Given the current situation, the Grantor has indicated that timelines will be altered to extend this project into the summer instead of filing our final report at the end of June.

Criminal Justice Series Ends

The 2019/20 Criminal Justice series, presented in partnership with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, wrapped up with a discussion of what happens after incarceration – the resources available and the potential complications. You can see the whole series (and previous ones) at <https://www.orcamedia.net/>. Click on EXPLORE, then go to SERIES and LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS.

We look forward to next year's programs, possibly on the immigrant experience, refugee to citizen.

Prison Registration 2020 Update

The Inmate Voter Registration initiative continues to register inmates in correctional facilities around Vermont. This program is in collaboration with the Department of Corrections, Volunteer Services Department.

In December 2019, a team of LWV volunteers set up a voter registration table at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Center in Burlington and registered several inmates.

In February 2020, LWVVT volunteers traveled to St. Johnsbury to register inmates at the Northeast Correctional Complex and Work Camp. The volunteer coordinator arranged for the LWVVT registration table to be set up in the cafeteria when inmates obtain their mail and foodstuffs and another voter registration table in the work facility. The high visibility of the LWV volunteers resulted in 18 inmates registering to vote.

The LWVVT were scheduled to register inmates at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield, VT on March 11, 2020 but were notified by DOC that VT correctional facilities will be closed to visitors and volunteers for several months due to the Covid19 virus. When the correctional facilities reopen the LWVVT will be registering inmates throughout the summer and fall.

To volunteer or for more information contact Madeline Motta at madelinemmotta@aol.com.

There's Still Work for US to Do

Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance Director Sue Racanelli released a new commentary about the commemoration of the 19th amendment in Vermont. She addresses the long battle for the right to vote, who was left out, and how it's still under threat today. She invites Vermonters to sign on to VSCA's pledge to honor the sacrifices of those who fought for the right to vote and to champion all the ways Vermont makes voting easy and accessible. Read her commentary:

<https://vtdigger.org/2020/03/11/sue-racanelli-suffrage-hard-won-not-done/>

Scenes from the Centennial Gala





LWV Central VT
1186 Towne Hill Road
East Montpelier, VT 05651

Calendar of Events

April

4-6
Development

14th Annual New England States Leadership
Conference, “Engaging the Future,” Wells, ME

CANCELLED

TBD

LWVCEN Leadership Team Meeting

May

TBD

LWVCEN Annual Meeting

30 Noon

“Election 2020:

LWVVT Spring Lecture and Lunch, Capitol Plaza Hotel,
Montpelier. Journalist and author Garrett Graff,
American Democracy Under Challenge?”

June

25-28

LWVUS National Convention, Washington, DC