

On Saturday June 14th, three LWW board members attended the biennial LWWMA State Convention, including Rama K. Ramaswamy, Marguerite Chatelier, and Bonny Nothern.

We were proud of our League's high visibility at the conference, with Rama as a featured speaker at the well-attended breakout panel entitled *Intersectionality & Action: A DEI Roadmap for Local Leagues* and with Marguerite's prominent contribution in the form of a 40-book display in the main meeting hall, including books about the challenges faced by people of color in the United States, today and through history. We were proud to highlight the work done by Rama and Marguerite to support our League's efforts to improve the DEI focus of the LWW 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Board of Directors.

We were also proud of our own Marlene O'Brien who is now the LWWMA Board Secretary (see below).

It was fun to see that almost all of the new state Board members were people we met when LWW served as coordinators of the Hands Off! Rally earlier this spring.

Bonny attended the membership breakout session entitled *the Voter Girl Project* with LWW Kent-Ohio's Sherry Rose. Sherry is an active Girl Scout leader and LWW member who developed a project with the Girl Scouts of Ohio to hold yearly civics-oriented events for young Scouts. At the beginning of the session, Sherry asked how many attendees had participated in the Girl Scouts. Unsurprisingly, every hand in the room went up. It was inspiring to hear about the national efforts to promote voting to girls and young women across the US.

For recordings of these two sessions, please email lwwma@lwwma.org for the links.

Another highlight of the convention was an inspiring virtual address by the keynote speaker, Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell. Her powerful keynote emphasized the importance of civic engagement, equity, and justice in our democracy. This recording is also available by emailing lwwma@lwwma.org for the link.

Other convention news, drawn from the LWWMA Convention 2025 Wrap Up website page, including links to further details, includes:

New Position on Reparations

LWWMA has adopted a new position in support of reparations for Black Americans, a position made possible by the LWWMA Reparations Study Committee. This historic step aligns us with our continued efforts to enshrine racial justice into all aspects of our work. Check out the newly-updated [Where We Stand](#) booklet on Page 66 for the full text of the position. A huge thank you to all involved with the Study, and the Consensus!

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

All proposed amendments to the bylaws were adopted, reflecting the League's evolving structure and strengthening our governance. The full updated bylaws is posted [here](#).

2025–2027 Program Adoption

Our new program was approved and sets the direction for our advocacy and education efforts over the next biennium. The 2025-2027 approved Program is available [here](#).

Passing the Gavel!: 2026-2027 LWVMA Board Slate

All nominees listed in the [2026-2027 LWVMA Nominating Committee Board Slate](#) were voted in! Congratulations to Courtney Henderson (LWV Greater Brockton Unit) for her election to co-President, Debra Dagwan (LWV Cape Cod Area) for her election to 1st Vice President, and Marlene O'Brien (LWV Wellesley) for her election to Board Secretary. We would also like to thank and welcome the following incoming Board Members, who will begin their term for the 2025-2027 Biennium: Meghan Hanawalt (LWV Falmouth), Tracey Carpenter (LWV Northampton Area), and Erica Andrews (LWV Northampton Area). Lastly, we would like to thank Marie Gauthier (LWV Franklin County) for her service as Co-President to the Board, and Jacquelyn Burmeister (LWV Worcester Area) for her service as 1st Vice President to the Board.

Link to slide show is at the bottom of this page: <https://lwwma.org/convention-2025/>