



League Day at the State House, 2017

League Day at the State House will be held Tuesday, March 21, 2017 from 3-6 p.m. The focus this year will be on learning how to lobby like a pro! We will meet at the State House in the Governor's Reception Room and attendees will receive briefings by the League Advocacy Committee on a variety of issues. We'll also have on hand maps of the State House and a glossary of Legislative lingo. You'll find out how to track bills, how testifying works, and how to get your point across. We'll finish up with some role playing on how to speak effectively to your legislators and have your voice heard.

Then it's off to the meet your legislators. We'll work in groups (so all you shy people who prefer letter writing can just tag along), but you are also free to go it alone.

We'll end the day with a brief wrap-up. The skills you'll learn will help you work not only on the League's issues, but also on other issues that concern you.

"Call To Action: Seizing Opportunity in a Time Of Uncertainty" Meeting on March 7

Since it was founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters has believed that democracy required voters who were educated about the issues and understood how to operate within the government. For almost 100 years, the League has used the rallying cry, "Democracy is not a spectator sport" to remind citizens that participating in a democracy does not end when the voter leaves the polling place.

This background explains why immediately after the November election, citizens turned to the League wanting to know how to become more involved. Many people asked, "What's next?" and in response, the LWVRI has organized "Call to Action; Seizing Opportunity in a Time of Uncertainty," on Tuesday, March 7 from 5:15-6:45. The event at the Newport Art Museum, 76 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, will help citizens learn how to become actively engaged in our democracy.

The forum will focus on how to engage in action and advocacy around three core issues: Voting Rights and Reform, Healthcare (including the Affordable Care Act and women's health) and Immigration. A panel of experienced advocates will facilitate the discussion and answer audience questions. Panelist include: John Marion, Director of Common Cause Rhode Island; Craig O'Connor, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England; Susan Taylor, an immigration attorney and member of Newport City Council; and Edward Fitzpatrick, Director of Media and Public Relations at Roger Williams University and former *Providence Journal* political columnist. LWVRI President Jane Koster will open the program with a brief review of the League's prioritized issues for this legislative session.

If you want to learn about these important issues and how to affect change, then join the League for this important meeting. It's free and open to the public. Doors open at the Art Museum at 5:00 P.M. For more information, please call 401-339-9766 or visit our website www.lwvri.org

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“Organize, Agitate, Educate”—Susan B. Anthony

by Jane W. Koster

On January 20, 2017 President Donald Trump took the oath of office and became the 45th president. It was an inauguration prefaced by an extremely divisive and difficult campaign season with a surprising outcome. The next day, January 21, 2017, the world watched as millions participated in a dramatic “call to action”—the Women’s March on Washington. Issues that so many felt needed to be brought into the sunlight were emboldened on posters and banners and in speech and debate. The March on Washington and the marches throughout our country and on every continent seemed to explode with a demand for informing and taking action on shaping our democratic process. So many came together to ensure certain rights be secured.

The effect of these Women’s Marches has been transformed into ongoing conversations. I have heard my friends, family members, neighbors and colleagues in meetings and forums as well as at theaters, museums, cafés and other public spaces including the Rhode Island State House. I’ve attended some of the gatherings across the state held in private homes and public spaces and talked with so many people who have joined new organizations. All whom I have met share a similar concern—how can they be good advocates and show support or opposition to issues that deeply concern them.

That concern is being heard by Leagues throughout the country. During a recent conference call with LWV New England state presidents and LWVUS board member Toni Zimmer, we all mentioned the increase in calls and requests to the League for guidance. “How can we make our voices be heard?” was the resounding call.

It is a call that is not going unanswered. The League’s mission is one of educating and informing citizens on our core issues and how to advocate at the local, state, and national level of government on these issues. The first response of the LWVRI will be our meeting on March 7 when we bring together a panel of accomplished spokespersons

at the Newport Art Museum to discuss action and advocacy on topics of “Voting Rights and Reform,” “Healthcare” and “Immigration.” Each of these important topics have demanded much attention at present. We will follow up that with our annual League Day at the State House on Tuesday, March 21. Our program will offer information and tips on lobbying General Assembly members on various issues. Please join us for these events.

The 2017 RI Legislative session is heating up, and we have supported bills on election protection and oversight and access to public records. There will a flood of bills announced soon after the winter break, and the LWVRI will be following and testifying on bills that pertain to our core issues. We are focusing on issues relating to voting, women’s health, governor’s line-item veto, open government, redistricting and money in politics.

Coalitions empower organizations with similar missions and common goals to initiate joint action to improve government policy. LWVRI belongs to the RI Coalition for Reproductive Justice and RI Coalition Against Gun Violence. These coalitions have many positions on issues that coalesce with our League’s advocacy and we will be lobbying on certain bills this year.

Two recent initiatives for coalition building have been proposed around Voting Rights and Voting Reform and Civics Education. I represented LWVRI at a meeting initiated by Common Cause RI of more than 20 organizations that came together to discuss the possibilities of forming a new Voting Rights/Voting Reform Coalition. I’ll keep you posted on these initiatives.

RI Secretary of State’s office invited the League to a meeting in February of a Coalition for Civic Education to share information about the current civics landscape in RI public schools and discuss plans for a spring convening of the coalition. The League throughout its 97-year existence has highlighted the need for civic education at all levels. (And thank you to the Secretary of State for her civic education efforts through her article in this issue of the *Voter*.) The LWV 2017 Annual New England Leadership Development Conference April 8-9 in Wells, Maine, is focusing one of its workshops on this topic.

Susan B. Anthony said, “Organize, agitate, educate must be our war cry.” Her message has been the League’s mission and goal since its founding, and we will continue to educate and advocate on public policy issues. Please join us.

In League,


Jane W. Koster

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island

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www.LWVRI.org 401-339-9766

Jane Koster, President

Patty MacLeish, *Voter* Editor

OUR PURPOSE: The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League is open to any citizen of the United States. Non-citizens may become associate members. Annual dues of \$50 for an individual and \$75 for a household include automatic membership in Local, State and National Leagues. Membership forms are available at www.LWVRI.org or call 401-339-9766. Please join us and help promote informed citizen involvement in government.

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Women's March 2017

The League of Women Voters participated in the historic Women's March on Washington on January 21, 2017. Believing "Women's Rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights," Leaguers throughout the nation showed their support for all groups, especially women, LGBT folks, people of color, immigrants, and those with disabilities. In addition to the main march in Washington, which (according to Washington D.C.'s head of homeland security) drew more than the expected 500,000 marchers. Among those in Washington were League members Mary Chace and Maggie G. Kuch. Mary marched with her daughter and granddaughter, Erin and Leah Huntley. Maggie traveled to D.C. with her husband, Matthew Bretschneider. Many LWVRI members were among the thousands who participated in the sister event in Providence.



▲ Maggie G. Kuch (on left) and her husband Matthew Bretschneider (on right) with some friends in Washington on January 21.

◀ LWV member Mary Chace (on right) with her granddaughter Leah Huntley (left) and daughter Erin Huntley (center) at the Women's March in Washington.

Call for Applications— Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Awards

The League of Women Voters of South County is pleased to announce the tenth annual Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Awards, which honor Rhode Island's innovative teachers and their exceptional work in civic education. The award is funded through the generosity of the LWVRI Education Fund.

Three prizes will be awarded. The Grand Prize award is \$1,000, the Jury Prize \$500 and the Honorable Mention Prize is \$250. The Wilson Awards committee is currently accepting nominations for the award. Get details and apply online at www.lwvri.org/wilsonaward.htm. Deadline is April 30.

Since 2007, this annual award has been given to three individual teachers or teams of teachers for work that has already been accomplished and whose impact has already been assessed. So please consider nominating a worthy teacher currently teaching in any Rhode Island school (preK – Grade 12) or forward the website link to colleagues and friends.

Susan B. Wilson, a founding member of the League of

Women Voters South Kingstown/Narragansett (no the LWV South County), was a passionate proponent for education and civic engagement. In naming these awards in honor of Susan B. Wilson, the League of Women Voters of South Kingstown and Narragansett acknowledges the importance of her work for the League and for the values of voter education and civic engagement, which she espoused.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Michele Danish, Barrington
Lynn Hughes, Warren
Naomi Kennedy, Barrington
Maggie Kuch, Chepachet
Polly Lyman, Newport
Vimala Phongsavanh, Woonsocket
Jean Quinn, Newport
Susan Santare, Cumberland
Lida Ujifusa and Mike Ryan, Portsmouth

Women's Health & Education Fund's National Abortion Access 8th Annual BOWL-A-THON



April 30, 3-6 P.M.

Help raise awareness and critical funding for women's health in Rhode Island. Create your own team or join a team. Don't bowl? Make a donation! Visit the Women's Health & Education Fund's website www.whefri.org/bowl-a-thon or contact Laura Bridge at WHEF at bowl4whef@gmail.com or visit our website at www.whefri.org.

Assuring the Integrity of Every Vote

by *Nellie M. Gorbea, Secretary of State*

Recent national discourse has resulted in some calling into question the integrity of our elections in Rhode Island. These sorts of accusations have the potential to undermine Rhode Islanders trust in the election system and suppress voter turnout. This deeply concerns me as Secretary of State. I want Rhode Islanders to know that I am committed to making sure our elections are fair, fast, and accurate so that they can trust the integrity of every vote.

Let's start with Rhode Island's voter rolls. There have long been concerns that the state's database of registered voters is bloated. This is not a problem that is unique to Rhode Island. Voters move, some from state to state, or sadly, they pass away. Our goal is to identify these voters as quickly as possible and make it easier for cities and towns to remove these voters in a manner that complies with very specific state and federal laws established to protect voter rights.

This is why I made it a priority to join ERIC (Electronic Voter Registration Center), the multi-state partnership that compares voting lists and other federal records, like the Social Security Death Master list. Already ERIC is helping us identify voters who may have moved out of state without notifying their former town or city halls. Since becoming Secretary of State in 2015, my office has worked with cities and towns to legally remove over 55,000 voters from the state's voter rolls, including nearly 17,000 deceased voters. We will continue to work with local boards of canvassers to identify those voters who may have moved or should no longer be on Rhode Island's voter list.

Another way to clean up the voter rolls is to make it easier for voters themselves to update their own voter registration information. That's why I also worked to pass and implement online voter registration. Now eligible Rhode Islanders can securely register or update their voter registration information online.

These concrete actions are using legal means to clean up our voter rolls while ensuring we do not deprive any eligible Rhode Islander from their sacred right to vote. However, let me correct a common misconception when discussing voter lists. While I urge anyone who moves to update their voter record, it is not illegal or fraudulent for a voter to appear on multiple voter rolls. Voter fraud happens only when someone votes more than once or someone votes under another's identity. National studies by Republican, Democratic and independent researchers have shown repeatedly those instances of voter fraud are very rare.

In the coming weeks I will convene a task force consisting of representatives from the State Board of Elections and local elections officials responsible for election day operations. The task force will identify ways to continue to improve elections in the Rhode Island, including things like early voting,

automatic voter registration, and poll worker training.

I encourage Rhode Islanders to be part of these conversations and share their own recommendations for improving our elections systems.

It is imperative that we safeguard the right of all eligible Rhode Islanders to vote. This single act of casting a ballot is fundamental to our democracy and critically important to making government accountable to the people it serves. Let's protect that right and continue to make Rhode Island elections fair, fast, and accurate.



LWVRI's Statement on President Trump's Call for an Investigation into Widespread Voter Fraud

LWVRI President Jane W. Koster released this statement on January 27 in response to President Trump's call for an investigation into unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud:

President Trump's claims of widespread voter fraud are seriously flawed and unfounded in fact and voters must not be swayed by these statements from the White House. Irresponsible announcements from our the President that instill distrust and misunderstanding of our voting system are not acceptable.

League of Women Voters of Rhode Island continues our work with the League of Women Voters of the United States, the Rhode Island Secretary of State's office and with other good government partner organizations to advocate and lobby for a safe and secure election process. Rhode Island has instituted new practices to accomplish these goals. This last year the state joined the Electronic Registration Election Center (ERIC), a multistate secure data-matching center organized to improve accuracy of voter registration systems.

The League of Women Voters, as we have proven during the 97 years of our existence, will continue our fight to protect our right to have a voice – to have the right to vote. We shall work and give oversight to any restrictions on voting and voter suppression.

Statement by LWVUS President Carson

Washington, DC – LWVUS President Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to the unsubstantiated claim from the White House that millions of illegal votes were cast in the past election:

President Trump is calling for a major investigation into voter fraud - in an election that he won! We know that widespread voter fraud is a myth perpetuated to push election laws that restrict voting. We cannot allow false claims to drive policies that will limit participation in our election process. There is no need for an investigation into a non-existent problem. The issue has been studied and put to rest.

For more on these statements, see the following page.

League Lessons: Non-partisanship and Advocacy

Why does the League do that? What's the difference between consensus and concurrence? What's Council? Why do we have three different levels of the League? The LWVRI knows that new and longtime members often have questions about the nitty-gritty of "being in League." We are hoping that this column, "League Lessons" will answer some of those questions. We hope to make this a regular feature in the Voter. Send us your questions. Our first topic is Non-partisanship and Advocacy.

On January 27, 2017, LWVRI President Jane W. Koster prepared a statement regarding the comments that President Trump has continued to promulgate: that 3 to 5 million illegal votes were cast in the 2016 election. Her statement followed one issued by LWVUS President Chris Carson, which also called out President Trump for continuing to repeat this myth. While many League members were pleased that the LWVRI had spoken out, there were some League members who felt that this statement was partisan. Isn't the League nonpartisan? Because of these concerns of our members, it seemed that this is a good time to review what it means to be partisan and what it means to advocate within the League.

What is Nonpartisanship?

The League of Women Voters is "political yet nonpartisan" and has been since its early days. At its founding, the League made the decision to take positions on issues but to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate (appointed or elected) for public office. Today, this policy continues to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics.

As a League, we work hard to assure that we are nonpartisan when we present information to voters, either at candidates' forums or through voters guides. For these events, we do not partner with organizations that support a party or endorse candidates. After an election, however, the League lobbies its elected officials. The officials are no longer candidates, but public officer holders. Whether it's on women's health issues, financing education, or in this case criticism of President Trump's statement of voter fraud, the League speaks up for its positions to all public officials. We are very accustomed to speaking to our U.S. Congressional delegation and the members of Rhode Island government, including the governor. It is unusual to make a statement regarding the executive branch, but like the others cited here, the president is an elected official.

The League's voter services activities are designed to provide citizens with unbiased, factual information that can be used as a basis for understanding the election process and reaching their own voting decisions. The League's citizen education activities, on the other hand, provide information on public issues, including those on which we have a position; by law and League policy, it is not necessary to present both sides of an issue in such situations. In other words,

Leagues may educate the public about a particular point of view or side of an issue (e.g. a League could hold a forum about why the death penalty should be abolished without including experts/panelists in support of capital punishment).

Advocacy vs. Lobbying

Advocacy is a broader concept than lobbying. While lobbying can be part of an advocacy strategy, advocacy does not necessarily include lobbying. Lobbying is defined as an attempt to influence specific legislation, both legislation that has already been introduced in a legislative body and specific legislative proposals that the League or others may either oppose or support. Lobbying includes action that transmits a point of view on a specific piece of legislation to elected officials or their staffs, as well as action urging the public to contact their legislators about a specific piece of legislation. Lobbying activities must be funded through the League's general operating funds (501(c)4).

Advocacy activities, on the other hand, can sometimes be funded with tax-deductible monies. This is the case even when only one side of an issue is presented, as long as no call to action on a particular piece of legislation is issued. Such activities can include: (1) developing public policy briefs that analyze issues and provide detailed information and recommendations for addressing them through specific reforms and (2) providing forums for discussing issues and educating policymakers and the public.

A careful reading of the League's Principles in *Impact on Issues* and of *League Basics* will provide a greater understanding of why the LWVRI made our statement and why we addressed it to the President.

The two main sources for this article are "League Basics" (2009) and "Impact on Issues" 2014-2016; "Impact on Issues may be downloaded from the LWVUS website (<http://lww.org/content/impact-issues>).

**Join Us! Become Part of
Making Democracy Work**



Membership in the League is \$50; two members of the same household may join for \$75. To join please send a check and this form to LWVRI, One Richmond Square, Suite 220 A-W, Providence, RI 02906, and help Democracy Work! Or, join on line at www.LWVRI.org.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

New & Revised League Positions Announced at LWVUS Convention

Every two years at the LWVUS convention, delegates vote for new positions that were arrived at either through consensus or concurrence. Agreement is reached through consensus using League responses to specific questions on an issue. With concurrence, agreement is reached through a vote on a pre-stated position, for example, a position reached through a state League consensus by another League. The technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement is consensus by

group discussion. (Consensus is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall sense of the group as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions.). Positions on the constitutional amendment process and an update of the League's money in politics position were reached through consensus after careful study and consideration by Leagues across the country. Two positions covering redistricting and behavioral health were adopted by concurrence at the LWVUS 2016 convention.

Money In Politics

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should enhance political equality for all citizens; ensure maximum participation by citizens in the political process; protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns; and provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices.

In addition, the methods of financing should ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections; enable candidates to compete equitably for public office; ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public; and combat corruption and undue influence in government.

The full position is available at lwv.org/content/impact-issues (download Representative Government).

Position on Constitutional Convention

The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention, that is a call to revise the U.S. Constitution. The League believes such a convention should be called only if the following conditions are in place:

- a) The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on;
- b) Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed;
- c) Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes;
- d) The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic;

e) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called. Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process; and

f) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission must be respected by Congress. (Rescission is the act of rescinding.)

Behavioral Health Position

The League believes that every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out- patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care. The existing LWVUS Health Care position, written in April 1993, mentions "mental health care" only as the last item in a list of types of care to which U.S. residents should have access. Behavioral Health—today's nationally recognized term—includes both mental illnesses and substance use disorder.

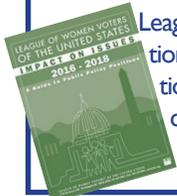
This concurrence supports "Integrated Care"—behavioral health care offered in the same place as primary care; people are more likely to start and complete behavioral health therapy when it is integrated, i.e. offered in the same place as their primary care. With this concurrence, the League at all levels will be able to advocate for effective Behavioral Health treatment and care.

More specifics and review all the background information can be found at: <http://lwvzcolorado.org/lwv/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/BehavioralHealthStudyMaterials2015.pdf>

Redistricting

Reapportionment happens every ten years to adjust congressional seats among the 50 states. The U.S. House of Representatives has 435 seats. Each state receives at least one congressional seat. The remaining 385 are divided—apportioned—according to population. Redistricting is the process by which the lines and boundaries of electoral districts are redrawn. The League of Women Voters supports redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public

Want to learn more about the how and why of League positions? The publication "Impact on Issues" contains all of the LWVUS positions with complete background information. State Leagues and local Leagues use these positions to support or oppose legislation at the state and local level. A summary of these positions is available at the LWVUS web site (<http://lwv.org/content/public-policy-positions>) or you can download a complete copy at <http://lwv.org/content/impact-issues>.



Women's Health Issues the League's Agenda for 2017

As of this writing the following health care related issues will be considered in the current session.

Support of Codification of *Roe v Wade* in Rhode Island.

One is a bill that would codify the right to constitutionally-protected safe, legal abortion, which, in effect would integrate *Roe v Wade* into RI law. This legislation would ensure that reproductive rights would be protected in RI in the event the Supreme Court strikes down *Roe v Wade* or Congress passes legislation that would no longer allow abortion. The legislation the League will be supporting is H-5343: "An Act Relating To Health And Safety - Reproductive Health Care Act (Prohibits the state from interfering with a woman's decision to prevent, commence, continue, or terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability)."

Support of Repeal of Gender Rating. Another bill the League will be lobbying for is the repeal gender-rating in insurance. Currently in Rhode Island, insurance companies can charge women more than men for insurance coverage, a practice called, "gender rating." That legislation is H-5109 (<http://status.rilin.state.ri.us/>) "An Act Relating To Insurance -- Accident And Sickness Insurance Policies"

Opposition to "Fetal Protection" bills. There are also bills that would prohibit abortion solely as a means of sex selection. While using abortion as a means of sex selection is objectionable, the bill would allow the state to interfere with a woman's decision about her own body. The first bill introduced is H-5158. "An Act Relating To Health And Safety (Prohibits abortions solely as a means of sex selection.)"

Two other women's health-related issues are expected to be considered. In 1984 a Rhode Island court decision ruled the RI's spousal notification law, which would require a physician to notify a woman's spouse in order to terminate a pregnancy, was unconstitutional. In spite of the ruling, the law is still on the books. We are also expecting legislation to

Positions continued from previous page

participation. The new redistricting position provides a basis for possible federal legislation to reform the redistricting process for federal elections in every state. It also reflects and respects the broad diversity of state League positions on redistricting.

Responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.

The complete position and background information can be found at: forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/redistricting-task-force; the full position is available at the League Web page lwv.org/content/impact-issues and download Representative Government.

by Mary Chace, LWVRI Women's Health Specialist

repeal the prohibition on State employees' health insurance coverage of abortion. RI law bars the state from providing its employees' health insurance plans that include coverage for abortion. We will keep you posted as far as the bill numbers for this legislation.

You can check out these and other bills by inserting the bill numbers at <http://status.rilin.state.ri.us/>.

Mary Chace represents the LWVRI on the RI Coalition for Reproductive Justice. Contact her at 401-437-2846

Is Voter Fraud Rampant in Rhode Island?

In May 2012, following the passage of the Voter ID Law in Rhode Island, LWV West Bay member Carolin Goldman undertook an investigation of voter fraud in Rhode Island. Below is an edited version of the report that appeared in the Fall 2012 edition of the *Voter*.

"Rhode Island's voter ID law, passed in 2011, is considered one of the 'better' voter ID laws. The League, however, is opposed to Voter ID laws because it believes that democracy only works as well as its elections processes and that all eligible voters should have an equal ability to vote. Right now voting rights are under attack, and Leagues throughout the nation are fighting back against restrictive Voter ID laws and voter registration systems as well shorter early voting periods. Voting is a right, and Voter ID laws are impediments to exercising that right.

"Those who support voter ID laws claim that it is needed to prevent fraud. In spring 2012, the LWVRI asked LWV West Bay member Carolin Goldman to gather information to determine the affect of Rhode Island's new law. Carolin, with the help of Hollie Courage and Roseanne Bootz has been exploring the question. The focus was to understand how the law operates, how much it costs taxpayers, how other aspects of the law will affect voting, and the amount of fraud adjudicated.

"Carolin [looked at the cost of the new law and] at whether there was indeed any evidence of fraud. Most of the 'proof' of fraud that voters expressed to their legislators were anecdotes.

"With the support of the LWVRI Board, she researched Supreme Court Judicial Technology Center cases, but learned little that was relevant. However, Robert Kando, executive director of the Rhode Island Board of Elections, noted that in the eight years that he been at the BOE there have been no cases of adjudicated fraud that the voter id legislation would have corrected. Much has been reported recently in the press and by candidates alleging voter fraud in the state, but these instances all related to absentee ballots. The Voter ID law doesn't not address the ways in which voter fraud can be perpetrated using absentee ballots."

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Coming Up—League Events

Thursday, March 2, 1 P.M.

Book Group: Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow at Susan Escherich's home in East Providence. All are welcome. To learn more about the Book Group, call Hollie Courage at 401-274-6173 or Linda Jenkins at 401-816-0331.

Tuesday, March 7, 5:15–6:45 P.M.

*“Call to Action: Seizing Opportunity in a Time of Uncertainty.”
Newport Art Museum, 76 Bellevue Ave., Newport. More information on page 1.*

March 12–18, Sunshine Week

The annual nationwide celebration of access to public information and what it means for you and your community.

Monday, March 13, 10 A.M.

LWVRI Board Meeting, Jamestown Library

Tuesday, March 21, 3-6 P.M.

League Day at the State House. See story on page 1.

Thursday, April 6, 1 P.M.

Book Group: The Shepherd's Life by James Rebanks At Linda Poole's house, 73 Seymour St., Warren. All are welcome. To learn more about the Book Group, call Hollie Courage at 401-274-6173 or

Linda Jenkins at 401-816-0331.

Friday–Sunday, April 7–9

LWV New England Leadership Conference, Wells, Maine, “Making Democracy Work.” More information is available at the LWV Maine web site, www.lwvme.org/Quad.html

Saturday, April 29, NOON

The League of Women Voters South County will honor longtime member Nancy Burroughs with a tea on Saturday, April 29, at noon at the Westerly Yacht Club, Westerly, RI. To make a reservation or for more information contact Chris Martone at martonechristine@gmail.com.

Sunday, April 30. Deadline for the Susan B. Wilson Awar Application

See story on page 3.

Thursday, May 4, 1 P.M.

Book Group: Crossing The Bamboo Bridge, Memories Of A Bad Luck Girl by Mai Donohue at Susan Excherich's home in East Providence. All are welcome. To learn more about the Book Group, call Hollie Courage at 401-274-6173 or Linda Jenkins at 401-816-0331