

# The Rhode Island Voter

The newsletter of the  
League of Women Voters of Rhode Island  
172 Taunton Ave., Suite 8,  
East Providence, RI 02914



April 2010

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## League Turns 90—And We're Celebrating at the Bristol 4th of July Parade

by Jane Koster

Throughout 2010 across our country, members and friends of the League of Women Voters are celebrating and remembering the historic significance of two not-to-be-forgotten dates. On February 14, 1920, at the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters. Then, six months later on August 26 the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote. What a struggle it had been! For 72 long years, women had fought tirelessly to have this right.

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island invites you to

celebrate with us. We are honored to be participants in the 225th Bristol Fourth of July Parade (held this year on Monday, July 5). We hope you will be there, too, whether watching or participating. We can have up to 15 League members in the parade, and if you would like to be part of this great occasion, please contact Jane Koster at 401-423-1465 or rjjkkoster@cox.net.

Stay tuned! LWVRI will be celebrating with other special events and functions later this summer and throughout the year.

## League Day 2010 Brings Congratulations & Education

by Marie Hennedy

“Rhode Island’s huge gaps in achievement between rich and poor students, between whites and those who are black, Hispanic or Native American may be explainable but they’re not acceptable,” Rhode Island’s new Commissioner of Education Deborah Gist told an attentive crowd in the Governor’s State Room at annual League Day at the State House on March 10. If Rhode Island’s economy is ever to thrive, she noted, “That cannot be the way things are.”

In addition to the commissioner, the more than forty League members and guests at the event heard congratulations delivered from Rhode Island’s First Lady Sue Carcieri, who read a proclamation from the governor declaring March 10, “Making Democracy Work Day in Rhode Island” in honor of the League’s 90th anniversary. Many legislators came by to offer congratulations to the League, and Representative Peter Kilmartin and Senator Elizabeth Crowley read resolutions in honor of the



The head of the suffrage parade, Washington, D.C., March 3, 1913.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## Uh? What’s that Funding Formula Mean? Come Find Out on May 18

When Deborah Gist, RI’s Commissioner of Education, spoke to the League in March, there were questions about the funding formula that her department had proposed earlier in the spring. Ms. Gist stressed that Rhode Island, which now has no such formula, is trying to attain the best formula, and she offered to have someone from her department explain to the League how that formula would work.

On Tuesday, May 18, from 3–5 p.m., Carolyn Dias, Chief of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies for the Department of Education, will speak to the League on the formula. The meeting will be held at the East Providence Public Library, 41 Grove Ave., East Providence. The meeting is open to the public.



Education Commissioner Deborah Gist speaking to League Members at the annual League Day at the State house.

# A Busy Spring for Leaguers

Hello, RI Leaguers,

League Day at the State House was a wonderful get together. Greta Abbott's tours were well spoken of by those who took part. When the time came for our speaker, Commissioner Gist, to begin, she was still stuck waiting to testify at a hearing down the hall. Most agreed, however, that her talk was well worth staying for.

Our Advocacy Committee and Greta Abbott, our lobbyist, have been in high gear in this season of many hearings. The Education Committee is working on a report and consensus questions about the equity of RI's system of funding its public schools. We plan to distribute copies via mail and the Internet, and to schedule consensus meetings in the local Leagues and for the Members at Large. The Voter Service Committee has met with ABC-6 to plan debates for this fall. Keep tuned...

The LWVRI Council meets on May 15, 2010, to approve the program and the budget and to elect some members of the

## Senator Whitehouse to Speak at LWV West Bay Annual Meeting

All members of the LWVRI are cordially invited to hear U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse speak on "RI's 3 F's: Fair Elections, Health Care ReForm, and Flood Relief" at the 61st Annual Meeting of the LWV West Bay to be held at the Quidnessett Country Club overlooking the Bay in North Kingstown on Friday, May 28. Senator Whitehouse, a Democrat, is Rhode Island's junior senator.



Senator Whitehouse

At 5 P.M., cocktails (cash bar) and hors d'oeuvres will follow the 4:30 P.M. annual meeting. Dinner (\$30 per person: choose chicken marsala or stuffed sole florentine) will be served at 5:45 P.M.; Senator Whitehouse will speak at 7 P.M.

To make reservations, please mail your menu selection and your check for \$30.00 made out to LWV-West Bay to West Bay Treasurer Millie Plouffe (150 Knollwood Ave., East Greenwich, RI 02818). Our deadline is May 21.

Quidnessett Country Club is located at 950 North Quidnessett Road, just past Scallabrini Villa.

### The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island

172 Taunton Ave., Suite 8, East Providence, RI 02914

www.LWVRI.org 401-434-6440

Joanne DeVoe, President

Patty MacLeish, *Voter* Editor

Jane Marchi, Copy Editing

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 \$44 include automatic membership in Local, State and National Leagues. Membership forms are available at [www.LWVRI.org](http://www.LWVRI.org) or call 401-434-6440. Please join us and help promote informed citizen involvement in government.

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by Joanne DeVoe, President, LWVRI

state board for this coming year. Please, come if you can. The biennial LWVUS Convention is scheduled for June 11- 15 in Atlanta, Georgia. This year the LWVRI board of directors has proposed a bylaw amendment that would enable state and local Leagues to lobby their members of Congress on national consensus positions without getting prior approval from LWVUS. The amendment calls for a waiting period of ten days beforehand which would insure that if the LWVUS thought that the planned lobbying was unwise, they could confer about it. I expect that the national League will resist our amendment. The LWV New Hampshire has voted to support it, and several other state Leagues have sent us supportive e-mails. It should be a lively convention.

Please remember that we value the input of any and all members on what is going on with the LWVRI. Forgive us if we are sometimes impatient with each other.

Let's all help each other do the best that we can.

Regards,  
Joanne

## Searching for Great Teachers

Do you know a teacher who promotes civic education? The League of Women Voters of South Kingstown and Narragansett is seeking nominations for the Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Award, which recognizes individuals engaged in teaching civics and honors exceptional work in this area.

Application details and information are available on the League of Women Voters Rhode Island Web site ([www.lwvri.org/wilsonaward.htm](http://www.lwvri.org/wilsonaward.htm)). Questions may also be directed to [sknarr@lwvri.org](mailto:sknarr@lwvri.org). Please include a phone number in your e-mail. The submission deadline is April 30, 2010, and the award will be announced in mid-May.

## Financing Education Study Report Coming Soon

The study materials for the financing education study will be posted on the LWVRI Web site on or around May 1. The Web postings will contain all the information that members will need to understand the issue and to participate in consensus later this spring.

The committee will be sending hard copies of the study materials to all local League presidents, so if you do not have access to a computer, contact your local League president or Education Funding Study committee member Marie Hennedy (401-884-3976), and you will be mailed a copy.

## HELP WANTED

Volunteer to publicize all the wonderful League events that are happening to celebrate our birthday year! Please contact Joanne DeVoe at 247-3004 or [joanned@qis.net](mailto:joanned@qis.net).

# LWVRI at Oxfam America's Climate Change Conference

by Joanne DeVoe

Oxfam America's "Sisters on the Planet" initiative brings together American women leaders to raise awareness about women and climate change, and to influence policy to help vulnerable communities adapt to the crisis. In honor of International Women's Day (March 8), Oxfam America organized the "Sisters on the Planet Climate Leaders Summit" and brought together nearly one hundred women from thirty-three states—and three international "climate witnesses"—to Washington, D.C., for a series of events that culminated in 125 visits to members of Congress and officials from the Obama Administration.

I was proud to report that, as president of LWVRI, I was one of the women who participated in these meetings and visits.

The first day of the conference, we learned that climate change is already causing severe hardship for people in developing countries. The next day, together

with Sister Mary Pendergast and Sister Nancy Audette of the Sisters of Mercy, I visited Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, as well as Representative Patrick Kennedy.

Our discussions with Rhode Island's members of Congress focused on the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and the need for climate legislation in the United States that helps poor people adapt to the crisis. We urged the Senators to co-sponsor S. 2835, the International Climate Change Investment Act, which establishes programs that work with local people to help them adapt to the climate changes that increasingly are causing severe floods, droughts and deforestation. At the time of our visit, S. 2835 did not include any funding. Senator Whitehouse said that he was working with others, whom he called "green Senators," to strengthen the bill before he would agree to co-sponsor it. Senator Reed was late for our meeting, and we couldn't stay due to flight schedules so we expressed our concerns to a member of his staff. Senator Reed returned

shortly after we left, and caught up with us as we walked down the hall. He said quickly that the Sisters of Mercy had taught him in school, so of course he would do his best for our cause.

Representative Kennedy met with us and showed good understanding of the issue. He said that when countries suffer from flood and drought, it threatens world stability. We urged Kennedy to cosponsor House Congressional Resolution 98, which affirms a commitment to support women, who are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, to prepare for, build their resilience, and adapt to those impacts.

If you would like more information about "Sisters on the Planet" initiative and learn how you can fight climate change, please contact Oxfam America ([www.oxfamamerica.org](http://www.oxfamamerica.org)) at [sisters@oxfamamerica.org](mailto:sisters@oxfamamerica.org). Please contact our senators and Representative Kennedy and let them know that you support this legislation. Visit [www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org), and click on "Internet Guide to Government" to find their contact information.



LWVUS President Mary Wilson (l) and LWVRI President Joanne DeVoe (r) at Oxfam America's Sisters on the Planet meeting in Washington in March.

Photo: LWV

## LEAGUE BASICS

### What is the LWVRI's Non-Partisan Policy?

In February, the LWVRI board adopted a new non-partisan policy, one of the League's most important documents. This policy outlines in detail how board members should act in their various dealings with candidates for office and political parties. Most League members join because they are politically active, but for the League to maintain its renowned position as a non-partisan organization, League board members must restrict their political activities so that the public is assured that the League indeed is non-partisan and does not support or oppose any candidate for public office. Each League, whether on the national, state, or local level, is required to review its non-partisan policy annually.

The new LWVRI non-partisan policy reiterates that board members may, and should, remain politically active by voting, joining political parties, attending candidates forums, serving as poll workers, writing legislators about issue and attending seminars on issues. However, board members may not run for office, hold an office in a political party, work in a public way to support a candidate, make a public political endorsement, accept employment that is partisan, nor contribute to a campaign for an issue that is in opposition to a current LWV position. In addition, board members who serve as the public face of the League—the president, voter service director, the advocacy director, and, on occasion, those board members who head study committees or hold active issue portfolios—may not carry out certain activities.

To review the policy in full, please go to [www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org), or contact LWVRI President Joanne DeVoe (247-3004 or [joanned@qis.net](mailto:joanned@qis.net)).

### Thank You to Our Donors

The LWVRI cannot survive without the support of its members and friends. To date, our fund-raising letter has brought in \$2,740 from forty-three members representing every League in the state and from friends of the League. Our most recent donors were **Hank Kniskern** and **Bonnie Watson, LWV Newport**, and **Barbara Feldman, LWV Providence**. Turn to page 4 and read the report from our lobbyist Greta Abbott. Your gift to the League supports her work; she is your voice on Smith Hill.

Help us reach our goal of \$3,000. No amount is too small. Send your contribution to LWVRI, 172 Taunton Ave., Suite 8, East Providence, RI 02914.

# What's Happening on Smith Hill

by Greta Abbot, LWVRI Lobbyist

I was quite busy in April as there were many bills for the League to consider. If you are interested in seeing how any of them are proceeding, visit the League Web page ([www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org)) or see the box on this page that explains how to track a bill on line. I have tried to describe the bills with enough detail so that you can contact your Assemblyperson or Senator. Remember, Rhode Island is a small state, and it only takes a handful of calls or e-mails on an issue to catch the attention of our elected representatives. Some of the most important bills that the League is following are **House 7357**, **House 7482** and **7578**, **House 7580**, and **House 7120**. Please, after reviewing these bills, take a few minutes to contact your representatives. (See box, "Follow That Bill.")

Most of the activity was in the House Judiciary Committee. **House 7357** would place on the ballot a proposition to amend the constitution of the state so that the Ethics Commission would have jurisdiction over the members of the General Assembly notwithstanding the "speech in debate" provisions in the state constitution. The amendment is needed to strengthen the Ethics Commission following the state Supreme Court decision that activities of former Senate President William V. Irons, who was accused of using his public office to obtain financial gain for one of his clients, were protected by the "speech in debate" clause. The League supports this amendment to the constitution.

**House 7482** and **7578** would require the abolition of the option of voting a straight ticket ballot. The companion bill is **Senate 2310**. Currently when using Rhode Island's RI's optical scanning machines, if a voter chooses the straight-party option, any other votes cast for non-party offices, such as school board members, are not counted. The League supports both bills.

**House 7580** presents the standards and process for establishing non-partisan redistricting in Rhode Island. Redistricting will follow the 2010 census, and it is often rife with political manipulation. **House 7120** is another bill that the League is watching closely. It would mandate that all magistrates in the RI court system be appointed like all other judicial appointees, under the Judicial Nominating Committee (JNC). Magistrates in Rhode Island act as judges so need to be selected through the Rhode Island's judicial selection process. The

League supports the bill.

**House 7421** would require that all polling places in Rhode Island close at 8 P.M. The League opposes restrictions on voting times unless there is legislation to allow voters alternate ways for voting, such as early voting, and simplification of voting by mail.

Under the Open Meetings Law, **Senate 2563** and **Senate 2587** both define a newspaper of general circulation by its level of circulation within a community. The League supports these bills, which present municipalities with a range of options regarding the advertising of notices of upcoming committee meetings. Two of the open meetings bills deal only with school committees. **House 7626** would allow school districts to advertise their meetings through publication on a Web site maintained by the school committee and/or publish in a newspaper, and **House 7677** would require publication of school committee notices in newspapers of general circulation, but not require publication in a paid newspaper. The League supports changes that allow communities more options in publicizing meetings.

The League opposes **House 7388** which would require that voters present picture identification each time they vote.

**House 7521** and companion bill **Senate 2141** would specify that public record items be included in arrest reports, shorten the time for returning requests to public agencies for records, and increase the fines for non-compliance. The League supports appropriate measures to increase access to public records.

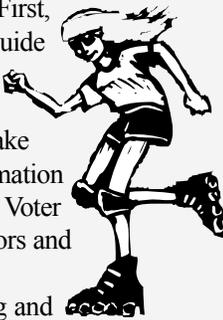
On the Senate side, there were several election-related bills. **Senate 2457** would facilitate the use of mail ballots. The League

supports the use of mail ballots without requiring an "excuse." **Senate 2067** would allow voters to change their party affiliation up to 29 days before a primary election. The League supports the additional time of 61 days for voters to decide whether they wish to switch to another political party. The League also supports **Senate 2456** which spells out the process for presenting supporting and opposing views on referenda items. The League supports the use of referenda.

**Senate 2643** bill would extend public matching funds to candidates of emerging parties. The League supports giving these candidates equal treatment in receiving public funding if they qualify.

## Follow That Bill!

The LWVRI has made it easy to contact your representatives in Providence and to follow the status of all the legislation pending in the State House. First, go to [www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org), and click on "Internet Guide to the Government," on the right side. If you want to find the name of your legislators, click on "Find Your Legislator," which will take you to the Secretary of State's "Voter Information Center." Enter your address under "General Voter Information," and the names of your legislators and contact information.



To follow a bill, go to [www.LWVRI.org](http://www.LWVRI.org) and click on "Legislation & Laws," and then click on the link to "RI Legislative Information," which will lead you to the Rhode Island General Assembly Legislation information. From this point, it's simply a matter of choosing either "Bill Status/History" or "Bill Text" and entering the bill number in the appropriate place. You do not need any of the other information, just the number, and press enter.

## Call to Council 2010

According to its bylaws, the LWVRI is required to hold a council "in the interim year between conventions." Councils are usually held in even number years, and state conventions in odd-numbered years. The Council is composed of the presidents of each local League or an alternate; one delegate chosen by each local League; the board of directors of the LWVRI; and one delegate representing the members-at-large. While only delegates will be voting, all League members are welcome to attend Council.

At Council, delegates may change or adopt programs, elect officers and directors, adopt a budget, and transact other business. On this page are the proposed budget for the upcoming year and the report of the nominating committee for 2010.

This year the LWVRI council will be held on May 15, from 10 A.M.–1:30 P.M., at the home of Jane Koster on Jamestown. If you have any questions about Council, please contact LWVRI President Joanne DeVoe (247-3004 or joanned@qis.net). If you would like to participate as a delegate, please contact your local League.

## 2010 Nominating Committee Report for the Board of Directors League of Women Voters of Rhode Island

### Officers (two-year terms)

2nd Vice President: Jane Rankin, LWV Providence

Treasurer: Jane Koster, LWV Newport County

### Officers (one-year term)

Secretary: Susan Escherich, LWV member at large

### Directors (two-year term)

Joan Arnold, LWV Newport County

Pam Ancheta, LWV South Kingston,  
Narragansett

Marie Hennedy, LWV West Bay

### Directors (one-year term)

Susan Wells, LWV Newport County

Respectfully submitted,  
Derry Riding, Chair, Nominating Committee

## League of Women Voters Rhode Island Proposed Budget 2010-2011

### Income

	BUDGET 2009-2010	BUDGET 2010 -2011
<b>Membership Dues</b>		
Per member payments rec'd from local Leagues	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,271
Member-at-Large (MAL) dues	\$ 540	\$ 440
Rebate from LWVUS Nationally Recruited Members	\$ 160	0
<b>Membership Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,065</b>	<b>\$ 1,711</b>
<b>LWVRI Education Fund</b>		
Rent	\$ 2,010	\$ 2,070
Other (utilities)	\$ 473	\$ 270
Insurance	\$ 264	\$ 251
<b>LWVRI Education Fund Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,747</b>	<b>\$ 2,591</b>
<b>Fund Raising</b>		
Letter	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,750
Event(s)	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,500
Local Leagues	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,900
State Council/Convention	\$ 200	\$ 200
LWV Day/State House	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,250
Web Site Grant/EF		
<b>Fund Raising Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,150</b>	<b>\$ 7,600</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Interest (Bank)	\$ 18	\$ 7
Misc./Sales		
Refund -- USPS		
Transfer from Savings		
Quad State (Ed Fund Grant)		
<b>Miscellaneous Total</b>	<b>\$ 18</b>	<b>\$ 7</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,980</b>	<b>\$ 11,909</b>

### Expenses

	BUDGET 2009-2010	BUDGET 2010 -2011
<b>Building</b>		
Rent	\$ 4,020	\$ 4,140
Electric	\$ 81	\$ 85
Telephone/Fax	\$ 500	\$ 540
Insurance	\$ 528	\$ 502
<b>Building Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,129</b>	<b>\$ 5,267</b>
<b>Office Expenses</b>		
Voter Publishing/mailing	\$ 500	\$ 900
Administrative (inc postage)	\$ 450	\$ 450
State Council/Convention	\$ 200	\$ 200
National Council/Convention	500	\$ 500
<b>Office Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,650</b>	<b>\$ 2,050</b>
<b>League Functions</b>		
Program Support		\$ 300
Membership		\$ 100
PMP/MAL*	\$ 365	\$ 298
Fund Raising -- letter	\$ 200	\$ 200
Fund Raising -- event		
League Day/State House	\$ 600	\$ 675
Web Site	\$ 12	\$ 12
Miscellaneous/Other	\$ 24	\$ 2
<b>League Functions Total</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>\$ 1,592</b>
<b>Advocacy Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,980</b>	<b>\$ 11,909</b>
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*Per member payment to LWVUS for members at large.

## League Day cont'd. from page 1

League's 90th anniversary. A video of the events at League Day is available on the LWVRI Web site, [www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org).

### Turning around RI's Schools

Shortly before the League day event, Rhode Island had been informed that the state was a finalist for \$126.6 million in federal "Race to the Top" funding, and Commissioner Gist was hopeful that Rhode Island would be a winner. The commissioner assured the League during her talk that the state would re-apply for a somewhat lower second-round grant if the first award did not come through. She said that she looked forward to arguing in Washington why Rhode Island is "ready to profit from a very generous investment."

Turning around Rhode Island's schools, she noted, entails having the state measure up to international benchmark standards and sharing information with Rhode Island's college and universities. When some teachers have one and a half years of student growth in one year, the state needs to "find out what they do, recognize and reward their efforts, and learn from them."

Rhode Island has come a long way lately, she added. State-wide proficiency-based high school graduation standards now exist and depend upon senior projects and portfolios as well as standardized tests. Rhode Island has also funded a pilot pre-kindergarten program and established a Code of Professional Responsibility. Having condensed the state's Basic Education standards from 400 to 40 pages, RIDE can now stress "expectations rather than particular means"; those can best arise, she noted, "from the bottom up," especially from teachers selected "not by seniority but by their fulfilling student need."

Days before, Rhode Island's Department of Education (RIDE) had released its version of a statewide funding formula. RIDE's formula is based on "prototypical core instructional costs" to which a community's special needs are added. Some communities would lose funding, a situation that the media and local officials have referred to in terms of "winners and losers," a characterization that Ms. Gist found dismaying.

"We have winners and losers now," Commissioner Gist explained. "We need to level the playing field." Aid, she specified, should be "child-centered; the money should follow the child." RIDE is looking forward to feedback on its plan.

Communication among education advocates, she stressed, is essential to Rhode Island's success. "Whether you agree or disagree with me, everybody's voice counts. We need not to [just] stand and talk, but to discuss together how to make Rhode Island's schools work well."

### Audience Questions Covered Many Topics

Questioned on why Rhode Island schools have taken such generous budgets yet done such an average job, Ms. Gist stressed that "we are investing enough but we need a higher level of accountability, especially in terms of curriculum standards and the

quality of instruction; when the data indicates, we need to intervene."

"How can Central Falls improve its parents' attitudes toward education?" one person asked. Explaining that parents were not the major problem with Central Falls schools, she noted that 90 percent of Central Falls parents participated in recent parent-teacher conferences and stressed instead the

influence of classroom teacher quality. "The best of the best can promote two years of learning in one; the top 75 percent of teachers can help students catch up; but those taught by the bottom 25 percent never catch up."

In answer to a question about consolidation, she explained that Rhode Island is now saving \$2 million per year using a statewide transportation system and another \$1 million by consolidating food services, she noted, and yet, "our ratio of administrators to students is relatively low." Collaboratives are good, she stressed, but attaining "five districts in five years is not our biggest issue."

Finally, implored by a member of the audience to not let statewide funding for education continue to be a political football whereby communities with the most votes get the most money, Ms. Gist stressed that the RIDE proposal aims to be "fiscally and educationally sound, one wherein costs are centered on the needs of each child. Unlike other hold-harmless or three-year transitional proposals, this one would be phased in over ten years and would be based upon each community's ability to pay and the needs of its students."



**Pam Ancheta and Karen Asher, LWV South County/Narragansett, video the events at League Day. The video is available on the LWVRI Web site, [www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org).**



**LWVRI President Joanne DeVoe (l), LWVRI Board member Marie Hennedy (c), and Representative Amy Rice at League Day at the State House.**

# Quad State will Focus on our Changing World

“The League in a Changing World” is the theme of this year’s Quad State weekend of workshops and sharing on the weekend of May 22 and 23. Quad State is the annual gathering of New England’s four small-state Leagues—Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

May’s gathering will focus on the issues facing Leagues in the twenty-first century. How can the League disseminate voter and candidate information to today’s voters? How can Facebook and Twitter add to the League’s outreach? What alternatives exist to traditional candidate forums? Why has civil discourse lost some of its civility lately? What is alternative voting and how could it increase voter involvement? How can doing a state study build the strength of the League in our states? These and other questions will be addressed by our guest speakers and panelists, with your input and questions a major part of the workshops.

Keynote speaker will be Jim Melchior, University of Maine, Farmington, who will speak on political civility in the United States. Workshops will include:

- Alternative Voting Systems with Terry Bouricius, LWV Champlain Valley, VT and FairVote.
- Get Out the Vote—Nontraditional Outreach Activities with Judy Davis, LWVUS Board Liaison
- Social Networking (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) with speaker Nancy Lynch, LWV Central Vermont, and Executive Director, Peace and Justice Center, Vermont.

On Sunday at lunch, following the workshops, Mary Wilson, president LWVUS, will discuss the program by “Sisters on the Planet,” the Oxfam group working on climate change. The cost for the lunch is \$25.

All details of the workshops were not set by our publication deadline. For more information check the “calendar” page of the LWV New Hampshire Web site: [www.LWVNH.org](http://www.LWVNH.org).

The event will be held at the Hampton Inn in Wells, Maine, an excellent hotel that has previously been used by the League, and the room prices have stayed the same. Please book your rooms well before the deadline of April 23 in order to ensure the League price of \$89 plus tax for each room. Share a room and it’s less than \$50 per person per night! Room price includes breakfast. Please call the hotel directly (207-646-0555) to make your reservation and tell them you’re with the League. Please note League of Women Voters of Rhode Island Education Fund will provide \$50 toward the cost of staying overnight to the first twelve Leaguers who register.

The League will have free use of the larger meeting rooms (the ones we used two years ago), but only if enough people book rooms! So please, if you are staying overnight, book a room at the Hampton Inn! Registration for the weekend is \$20 per person, which includes lunch on Saturday and coffee and pastries during the workshops both days.

## QUAD STATE REGISTRATION

I want to attend Quad State! I have enclosed \$20 to register for the event.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

We will send you confirmation with details of time and road directions via e-mail.

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to attend just the Saturday workshops.

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to stay at the hotel Saturday night and attend workshops on Saturday and Sunday.

\_\_\_\_\_ I plan to stay at the hotel Friday and Saturday nights and attend workshops Saturday and Sunday.

\_\_\_\_\_ I’m staying overnight; I have already booked my room at the Hampton Inn.

**Please send your check by May 10, payable to LWV Quad State. Mail to LWV c/o Liz Tentarelli, 27 Bowles Rd., Newbury NH 03255**

## Under Discussion in May: Alternative Voting Methods

Anyone who wishes to discuss topics freely, with no hidden purpose, is welcome to join other League members on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. The topic on May 13 will be Alternative Voting Methods led by Caroline Goldman. Caroline recommends three articles, which she encourage participants to read along with any additional materials. The readings, which are all from the *New York Times*, are “To Reduce Partisanship, Get Rid of Partisans” by Phil Keisling (March 22, 2010); “Tea Party Without Nuts” by Thomas L. Friedman (March 24, 2010); and “A Better Way to Elect Our Leaders?” (which are five letters published in the *Times* on March 27, 2010 responding the Keisling article). To obtain copies of the articles, contact Jane Rankin at 401-884-0669.

The discussion meetings are usually held at the home of Jane Rankin, 192 Spencer Avenue, Warwick. Members of the group take turns leading the discussion. No topic has been set for the June meeting; contact Jane or visit [www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org) for schedule updates.

The League of Women Voters of RI  
172 Taunton Ave., Suite 8,  
East Providence, RI 02914

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## Coming Up—League Events

**Monday, May 10: LWVRI Board meeting**  
10-noon, LWVRI office, 172 Taunton Ave., E.  
Providence. Contact Joanne DeVoe, 247-3004  
or [joanned@qis.net](mailto:joanned@qis.net)

**Tuesday, May 13: Discussion Group**  
**Topic: Alternative Voting Methods**  
Led by Caroline Goldman. Contact Jane  
Rankin at 401-884-0669 and see story on  
page 7 for more information.

**May 15: LWVRI Council**  
10 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. Home of Jane Koster.  
See story on page 5. Contact Joanne DeVoe,  
247-3004 or [joanned@qis.net](mailto:joanned@qis.net)

**Tuesday, May 18: RI's Department of  
Education Funding Formula Proposal—  
What Does it Mean?**

A meeting with Carolyn Dias, Rhode Island  
Department of Education, 3 P.M. - 5 P.M. East  
Providence Public Library, 41 Grove St., E.  
Providence. See story on page 1. Contact Joanne  
DeVoe, 247-3004 or [joanned@qis.net](mailto:joanned@qis.net)

**Saturday-Sunday, May 22-23: Quad-  
State Conference**

Meeting the LWV's of Vermont, New Hamp-

shire, and Maine. Contact: Derry Riding, commit-  
tee chair at 253-8145 (home) or 222-3949  
(work).

**Thursday, May 27: LWVRI Book  
Group**  
Poker Bride by Christopher Corbett. For more  
information contact Linda Jenkins, 816-0331.

**Friday–Tuesday, June 11-15:  
LWVUS Convention**  
Atlanta, Georgia.

**Monday, June 14: LWVRI Board meeting**  
10-noon, LWVRI office, 172 Taunton Ave.,  
E. Providence. Contact Joanne DeVoe, 247-  
3004 or [joanned@qis.net](mailto:joanned@qis.net)

**Thursday, June 24: LWVRI Book  
Group**

The Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and  
Sweet by Jamie Ford. For more information  
contact Linda Jenkins, 816-0331.

**Monday, July 5: Fourth of July parade  
in Bristol**

Cheer on League members in the parade as they  
commemorate the passage of the 19th amend-  
ment. See story on page 1.

**Thursday, August 26: 19th Amendment  
Ratification Day**

Stay tuned for information on our celebration.

## Get a Green Voter

We know you love to see the *Voter* when it arrives in your mail-  
box, but wouldn't it look just as good in your e-mailbox? If you  
would like to receive your *Voter* via e-mail, please notify editor Patty MacLeish at [pma-  
cleish@verizon.net](mailto:pma-<br/>cleish@verizon.net). When you send that e-mail, also send along the names of people  
that you think would like to receive our *Voter*. We'll put them on our mailing list and  
introduce them to the League.

