

Midcoast Chapter of the LWV

January 5, 2021

**In attendance:** Debbi Hitchings, Amy Fischer, Lilli Martin, Nadine Bangerter, Donna Janville, Louise Janelle, Nicole Flores, Catherine and Stu Lyon, Chelsea Lane, Briauna Norman, Brenda Gushee, Dyan Dyer, Carmen Lavertu, Antonio Blasi, Karen Young, Rebecca Wentworth

**Guests:** Anna Kellar, Executive Director LWV of Maine and Evan Tess Murray, Education and Engagement Projects Manager, LWV of Maine

Facilitator Lilli Martin **welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Anna and Evan.**

**Anna gave us a broad overview of the League year. It was an incredibly successful and busy year and now** are looking at what is ahead for the LWV of Maine.

- The combination of **an election year and COVID made for a great challenge.** **Connected** with over 250,000 voters through various formats: voter guide, **texts, registrations etc.**

- **Provided local ballot information in over 200 communities**

**Information in 5 languages 400 volunteers: text banking, phone calls, research, door knocking, election observation, outreach to town clerks. Great effort in understanding how each town was** doing the election. Provided help for local town clerks in over 100 polling locations observing: No election disturbances, good COVID protocols, In all 16 counties with over 100 volunteers **doing observations. People really wanted to be** involved.

**Record absentee turn out,** smooth elections overall.

- **Very impressed with how many new people became involved.**

**Where are we now,** going ahead. What to do with all this energy Advocacy: New legislative session

- On line voter registration

- **Secretary of State office to have resources to provide information to towns**

National Popular Vote

**Ban on Corporate contributions to candidates** 100 bills to testify on!

Application: how to apply **what we have learned on elections to local communities**

- How to help people get engaged
- Basic civics education: how **does town meeting work, how are towns organized**

**What are the most important issues.**

**Help us to grow our local networks** . State LWV would love to help local leagues wherever needed.

Wrapping up Centennial year and 19th amendment year. We put action in front of celebration.

There will be a version of Advocacy Day in February. Not sure yet how. Probably activities over a week's time.

To read League's post-election report about all of our work:

<https://www.lwyme.org/publications>

Evan: How to do Voter Engagement/Civic engagement when couldn't go into schools. The result was the YOUTH COUNSEL.

- **Very much** being driven by an active group of high school students. **The seed was planted and it**

**grew.** Mailed out registrations via the schools **Now have a pool of interested 16 - 17 year olds.** On board and get it.

**How to keep engaged**

- Also keeping in contact with college age **students**

More connection between chapters and the kids. Mix the energies

- **speakers Bureau -both the students and adults from the Leagues**
- Youth meet for skill building and workshops. Have been on Maine Calling

Civics Education Curriculum to go into schools: Looking at a committee to work on, to access local league **expertise and go out into the communities to educate. To definitely keep connected with the local leagues.**

**evan.tess@lwvme.org if you want to talk education & engagement**

What is the best way to get young people involved in our chapter?

- **Ask them to share their experiences.** What is their lived experience of being a student
- **Set up an event and have them involved.** Use the youth counsel to get that information out.

**Be transparent about what we are looking for. How can we help make what they want to happen, happen. Don't patronize or talk down to. Maintain our connections with the schools we have worked with over the past couple of years.** Get student activists connected with their local legislators

Local League Advocacy

**Due to COVID there will not be in person lobbying opportunities this session.**

- **There will be video or emailed opportunities to testify**

In district meetings: **Opportunities to meet with** legislators locally to learn what they are sponsoring etc. To build relationships with them.

- **Letters to the editor/Op Eds/ Social media forums**

Local Civic Engagement.

**Lane explained that there will be a brainstorming session to look into what we can do. How can we be involved/educate Local involvement is a priority and is empowering Can now Zoom into any local meetings in our communities. Suggestion of a welcome basket sort of thing for newcomers to Maine.**

National Popular Vote strategies: Lane

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LWV and Democracy Maine leading an effort to have Maine adopt the NPV Pact.

**Away to work around the electoral college Will go to committee this year in the legislature** In organizing stage: Get people to contact their local legislators **Raise public awareness as** it will probably end up on the ballot at some point. **A community education component. A planning team, with subcommittees being organized. Speakers bureau for the NP** Can sign up for the LWV's email subscription. Go to <https://www.lwyme.org/npv> **More information will be coming out within the coming weeks with how local leagues and individuals can get involved. Let the People Pick the President:** an opportunity for

discussion. Will probably will be a state level book group for that. Our league could go ahead and organize as well

Let the People Pick the President

- We will dedicate a part of the **next several meetings to reviewing** the book.
- **Next month we will do the Introduction and first chapter.**

The Newsletter

- **We need someone to take over the newsletter** from Nadine.
- There is a state format to follow. Nadine will teach and walk someone through it.
- It is easy to use and fun to do.

Huge thanks to Nadine for her efforts.

**Next Wednesday** at 5:30 Local **Government Civic** Engagement programming meeting.  
Register on the Leagues event page.

Respectfully submitted Debbi Hitchings

Information from the Chat:

17:46:36 From Antonio Blasi to Everyone : municipal clerks' contact program 17:57:41 From Anna Kellar (they/them) to Everyone : If you'd like to read our post-election report about all of our work: <https://www.lwvme.org/publications> 18:24:23 From Evan Murray (he/him or they/them) to Everyone : **Municipal voyeurism. I love it** 18:26:08 From Evan Murray (he/him or they/them) to Everyone : Anna Kellar: hey maybe we should do a **voter information hotline** 18:26:11 From Evan Murray (he/him or they/them) to Everyone : ...and we did 18:27:46 From Dyan Dyer to Everyone : **i need to** leave at 6:30 in 18:28:06 From Evan Murray (he/him or they/them) to Everyone : I apologize **for my internet connection** 18:31:13 From Evan Murray (he/him or they/them) to Everyone : Not Moxie, **we want them to stay** 18:33:13 From Anna Kellar (they/them) to Everyone : [lwvme.org/npv](http://lwvme.org/npv) 18:33:51 From Evan Murray (he/him or they/them) to Everyone : The website for our NPV work: <https://www.lwvme.org/NPV>

It's got a link for signing up to volunteer if **you want to.** 18:40:17 From Nicole Flores to

Everyone : Curious as to what is the objection to NPV? **18:41:24 From Anna Kellar**  
(they/**them**) **to Everyone : Here are some:** <https://www.lwvme.org/npv> 18:41:43 From Anna  
Kellar (they/**them**) to Everyone : (If you click on the “myths” tab 18:45:43 From Anna  
Kellar (they/**them**) to Everyone : [anna@lwvme.org](mailto:anna@lwvme.org) - I'm always happy to **hear**  
**from folks with questions and ideas** 18:48:41 From Evan Murray (he/him or they/**them**)  
**to Everyone : same! [evan.tess@lwvme.org](mailto:evan.tess@lwvme.org) if you want** to talk education &  
engagement **18:49:19 From Lane Sturtevant to Everyone : [lwyme.org/npv](http://lwyme.org/npv)** 18:50:53  
From Anna Kellar (they/**them**) to Everyone : <https://www.lwvme.org/Midcoast>