

# The Rhode Island Voter

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



Winter 2015

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## League Day at the State House 2015 March 24

### Gov. Raimondo headlines League Day at the State House

Plan now to attend League Day at the State House 2015 and come away re-energized by the League and its work. League Day is scheduled for Tuesday March 24, from 3-6 p.m. at the Governor's Reception Room in the State House. We've planned a program around our theme, "Make a Difference

at the State House with the League," which we hope will help you learn more about the League, and how, with your support, it can make a difference in Rhode Island. At League Day, you'll hear about our upcoming convention and the nitty-gritty of the important issues of the 2015 legislative session.

We'll top that off with Governor Gina Raimondo as our guest speaker.

League Day highlights who we are and what we do, so why not plan to bring a friend—or two—along, so they can see what we do? As an incentive, all members who bring two guests will receive a free registration. We also are requesting that local Leagues contact their representatives and personally invite

#### League Day Schedule

- 3 Registration and social time for League members and guests.
- 4 "The State of the League"—presentations on League outreach, advocacy, Convention 2015, and other League reports.
- 5 Keynote: Governor Gina Raimondo
- 6 Wrap-up.

Registration deadline is March 21.

#### Invite Your Legislators

Please contact your legislators and invite them to stop by to "Meet the League" between 3-4 on March 24. It's the perfect way for local Leagues to speak to their local assemblypersons and senators and make an initial contact before meeting with them to discuss our priorities.

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### First Call: LWVRI Convention 2015

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island will hold its biennial convention on Saturday, June 13, at Buter Hospital, Blackstone Blvd., Providence, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea will address the delegates and guests.

All League members are invited to attend convention, but only delegates will vote for officers and board members, adopt the budget, and come to agreement on League programs, including new studies. Each League may send delegates; the number of delegates is based on the local League's membership. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, please contact your local League president.

More details will follow in the next issue of the *Voter* and will also be published on the League's website, [www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org) and on our Facebook page.

### Speak Up! Speak with the League!

Legislators pay attention to those who elect them, especially in a small state like Rhode Island. Armed with the facts and some background, you can be an effective spokesperson for the League. The LWVRI will be setting its advocacy priorities for 2015 at the next LWVRI board meeting (a winter storm forced cancellation of the February meeting), but the Advocacy Committee held its first meeting for 2015 in January, and a report is included in this issue on page 4.

The League will keep you posted on its work through e-mail updates, posting on our blog, Facebook postings, and Voter articles. There will also be presentations at League Day at the State House. If there are issues that interest you, they are easy to track on line at [webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/legislation/](http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/legislation/). Out updates will give you insight into the bill's language and explain the League's position. Armed with this information, you'll be all set to contact your legislators. Their contact information is available at [www.state.ri.us](http://www.state.ri.us); (under "Open Government" click on "General Assembly" and search for your representatives on Smith Hill.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# *Winter Storms Will Not Deter the League's Work*

by Jane W. Koster, LWVRI President

What a winter! I hope by the time this *Voter* reaches your mailbox the snow and ice will have melted away. I love winter and skiing, yet the many storms of this winter are just too much.

Although the weather may be challenging, we are buoyed by the prospect of the upcoming session at the State House. Usually this time of year, I try to stay positive when I look at our priorities, but you may read them and think, "Aren't these the same as last year?" Well, yes, many are, but this year, I can happily report that we have had success—the Master Lever has been banished from our ballot beginning with the 2016 election. A victory! This was a battle that the late Senator June Gibbs, a longtime League member, fought for over many years. We in League know that persistence pays off.

We came close to victory on the ethics legislation, but the session ended without the passage of legislation that we could live with. We aren't leaving the issue behind; we will be back working with our good government partners to assure that we have a bill that truly restores Ethics Commission jurisdiction over the General Assembly.

We are also focusing on voting rights. We feel that this is the year that will bring success with many issues including, in-person early voting, on-line voter registration, and same-day registration at polling places. The League is also closely following the Board of Elections, which is considering many important issues including the purchase of new voting machines. The League was at the forefront 20 years ago when Rhode Island changed from the old lever machines to the current ones. The League studied that issue, came to consensus, and fought for machines that met our criteria.

Last spring at the New England Leagues at their Quad State Conference formed the New England Coalition of State Leagues. The coalition is focusing on two important legislative actions — money in politics (following the fallout from the Citizens United case) and restoring fairness to the redistricting process. The next Quad State Conference will be held on May 16-17, with an optional pre-conference session on May 15, at Hampton Inn in Wells, Maine, and we hope you will join us. Our theme is "Election Law," which incorporates campaign finance, voting and redistricting. We will also hold training on League processes, such as conducting a study. Please join us for this valuable conference and share the passion and fun with our fellow New England League members. The LWVRI, with funding from the LWVRI Education Fund, provides grants to cover some of the costs of the attending the meeting. Let's support the Coalition and have a strong showing this year in Maine.

When first I joined the League a decade ago, I attended the annual League Day at the State House. The event was invaluable

to me in understanding the scope and depth of the work that the League does. We have a wonderful program planned for the 2015 League Day on March 24. Governor Gina Raimondo will be our keynote speaker, and we have a full schedule of events—a mix of socializing and learning. We are asking members to invite their local legislators to stop by to meet local League members from their district. After our social hour, we'll hear from our Advocacy Committee on our priorities for 2015. We'll have lots of handouts, so that when you go to meet one-on-one with your legislators you'll feel ready to speak to our priorities. I hope you will attend and share in this wonderful experience. I am sure you will come away from the meeting feeling as I did after my first League Day—educated about the issues and full of enthusiasm for the League's work.

The LWVRI's biennial convention will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2015. Mark your calendar now. We are so excited that this year as we focus on elections and voting that the convention's guest speaker will be Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea. (See the story on Page 1 for more details.)

On August 26, 2015, we will celebrate the 95th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment and founding of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the LWVRI. The Preservation Society of Newport County's Chief Executive Officer Trudy Coxe has agreed that PSNC will host an event at Marble House in Newport, the home of suffragist Alva Vanderbilt Belmont. The PSNC is looking forward as well to working with us for a grand celebration in 2020 and the one-hundredth anniversary. Do you have ideas of how we should celebrate this event? Let us know.

Finally, you should have received a letter asking for your support. As you read the *Voter*, please consider the wonderful work the League does and give generously. And thank you to Linda Jenkins for her efforts in getting the letters out.

We'll see you at League Day!

*In League,*



### **The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island**

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

[www.LWVRI.org](http://www.LWVRI.org)

401-434-6440

Jane W. Koster, President

Patty MacLeish, *Voter* Editor

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 include automatic membership in local, state and national Leagues; join at [www.LWVRI.org](http://www.LWVRI.org), call 401-434-6440, or e-mail [state@lwvri.org](mailto:state@lwvri.org) and help promote informed citizen involvement in government.

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# LWV Providence Helps Host March Conversations

The LWV Providence, Generation Citizen, and the Governor Henry Lippitt House Museum in Providence sponsoring three “Conversations” at the Lippitt House. The talks begin at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public. Supported in part with a grant from the LWVRI Education Fund, the Conversations are designed to promote citizen engagement and inform attendees of community governmental and political issues. The Conversations will be held on three Thursday—March 12, 19 and 26, followed by an informal reception.

LWV Providence member Sara Bradford will lead the Conversation on March 12 —“The East Side Engages Providence.” The speakers will be Lorne Adrain, former Providence mayoral candidate; Cali Almy, Wheeler School Community Service Learning Director; and Albert Dahlberg, Director of State and Community Relations at Brown’s Swearer Center. The discussion will focus on how the East Side engages in politics and the community.

On March 19 Conversation, “Latino Education and Engagement, will be lead by LWV Providence member Sandy Riojas. The speakers are Anna Cano Morales, Director of Latino Policy Institute at Roger Williams University; Soljane Quiles, social studies and civics teacher at Highlander Charter School; and Jose Baptista, president of the board of directors for sister organizations Rhode Island Latino Civic Fund and Rhode Island Latino Political Action Committee. They will discuss how the largest growing ethnic group in Rhode Island is changing politics.

The focus of the final Conversation on March 26 is “Tech-

## Celebrate the LWV’s 95th

The LWVRI and the Preservation Society of Newport County will co-sponsor a celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 2015, at Marble House in Newport from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Marble House is the home of the suffragist Alva Vanderbilt Belmont. The PSNC welcomed League members to Marble House to celebrate the 90th anniversary in 2010. The 2015 program will also focus on the voices of the women who fought the long, hard battle for the right to vote for women. Plans are still being formed for the program.

Following the death of her second husband, O.H. P. Belmont in 1908, Alva Belmont dedicated herself to the woman’s rights movement. She often held teas in support of the cause at the Japanese Tea House on the grounds of Marble House. In 1916, Alva along with Elsa Maxwell wrote a musical, “Melinda and Her Sisters,” which was performed as a fund-raiser for the suffrage movement. Plans are underway to perform one of the songs from the musical, and the call is out for singers who would like to participate. Contact Jane Koster if you are interested in participating—or if you know someone who would be a good addition to the chorus (339-2351 or [janekoster@gmail.com](mailto:janekoster@gmail.com)).

The Rhode Island Voter

nology and Community Engagement.” Andy Cutler, founder of Achievery, and Sue Ellen Kroll, Director of Grants and Strategic Partnerships Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, will be the speakers. They will discuss how to blend technology with history for community outreach and engagement.

The Governor Henry Lippitt House’s public programs provide opportunities for the study of Victorian life and put the house and its occupants in a historical perspective to facilitate greater understanding of today’s Providence and its industrial legacy.

Generation Citizen was founded by two students at Brown University in Providence in the fall of 2008. From its beginning, Generation Citizen has been committed to empowering youth across the entire state of Rhode Island to become active and engaged citizens in their neighborhoods, cities, and state.

## LWV Newport County Schedules Annual Legislators Forum

The LWV Newport County will sponsor its annual Legislators Forum on Saturday, March 21, from 9:45-11:30 at the Newport Public Library, 300 Spring Street, in Newport. All the legislators from Newport County— Sen. Louis P. DiPalma (District 12), Sen. Christopher Ottiano (District 11), Sen. M. Teresa Paiva Weed (District 13), Rep. Marvin Abney (District 73), Rep. Dennis Canario (District 71), Rep. John Edwards (District 70), Rep. Daniel Rielly (District 72), Rep. Lauren Carson (District 75), and Rep. Deborah Ruggiero, (District 74)—have been invited.

LWV Newport County member Erin Dollard will moderate the event, which is open to the public.

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

The Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the 2014 award which honors Rhode Island’s innovative teachers and their exceptional work in civic education. Thanks to the generosity of the LWVRI Education Fund, the seventh Annual Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Awards 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 <http://www.lwvri.org/wilsonaward.htm>. The 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.

# LWVRI Sets 2015 Action Priorities

by Susan Escherich, Advocacy Committee

The LWVRI Advocacy Committee held its first meeting of the 2015 session on January 29 to establish priorities and discuss legislation introduced so far this year. The committee was pleased that at long last, the use of a “Master Lever” on the ballot is a thing of the past. At the end of the last session, the Master Lever was abolished. The League has lobbied for its removal for many years along with other good government groups; it is an example of how the League is persistent in pursuing the positions it supports. This session will be no different and this committee report contains many issues that you may find familiar.

Again in 2015, we will join in coalition with Common Cause, ACCESS/RI, the ACLU, and the RI Coalition for Reproductive Justice and other groups in support of issues where we are in agreement. With the election of Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, who campaigned for repeal of voter ID and increasing voter participation, the League hopes that much will be accomplished on voters’ rights in 2015. Common Cause will be also focus on voting issues, and the League will work closely with that group. The League will continue to work with ACCESS/RI on open meetings and open records issues; LWVRI President Jane Koster serves on the Board of ACCESS/RI.

## LWVUS Advocacy Priorities for 2015

Because the League of Women Voters is a three-tiered organization—local, state, and national, members should also be aware of the national League’s positions and priorities. The LWVUS Board at its most recent meeting adopted the following issues as its legislative priorities for 2015:

- First Tier: Voting Rights and Election Administration and Money in Politics
- Second Tier: Climate and Environmental Protection; Immigration; Health Care, including Reproductive Choice

The LWVUS Board noted two other items in regards to advocacy. First, it agreed that the LWVUS Redistricting Task Force should continue its work through the LWVUS’s 2016 convention. The task force is aiming to develop a position on redistricting reform for concurrence, working with state Leagues on reform proposals in the states, and planning to provide very basic educational materials to Leagues.

The Board examined the “Meeting Basic Human Needs” position in relation to income inequality and determined that the position can be used in communities in “working toward an income that meets basic human needs.” The committee agreed that specific issues in relation to a “living wage” and income levels should be decided by local and state Leagues working in their communities since the position contains many elements that address current needs in communities across the country.

The LWVRI’s Mary Chace, who has been following women’s health issues through many legislative sessions, is our liaison with the RI Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RICFRC) and will report to members throughout the legislative session on the issue. The League will also work with RIFCRC to address issues such as, family planning expansion, current law on spousal notification before a woman may have an abortion, ensuring that women have insurance coverage that includes abortion, and codification of *Roe v. Wade*. In addition, the League will be following “pregnancy accommodation” legislation, which will require employers to provide “reasonable accommodation” for pregnant and lactating workers. The cities of Providence and Central Falls already have reasonable accommodation laws on the books.

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### Proposed LWVRI Legislative Priorities for 2015

#### Transparency in Government

- Extending the jurisdiction of the Ethics Committee to include oversight of the legislature
- Merit selection of magistrates
- Continued monitoring of compliance with open meetings and open records laws

#### Elections

- Support of early in-person voting, same day registration, on-line registration, improved voting machines
- Reform of campaign finance policies and procedures

#### Proposed Constitutional Amendments (The League will support or oppose amendments depending on League positions.)

- Support of initiative and referendum if the amendment aligns with the LWVRI position.
- Support of increasing the term length for senators.
- Oppose increase of term length for representatives.
- Oppose term limits
- Supports the right to an adequate public education (S7)

#### Redistricting

- Lobbying to change the policy of counting prisoners as living where their addresses were before incarceration for census purposes.

#### Women’s Reproductive Health

##### Public Education

- Making an adequate public education a constitutional right in Rhode Island
- Promoting public education funding to provide equality of opportunity through a system of taxation that is sufficient, equitable, flexible, and coordinated among different levels of government.

##### Gun Safety

Other issues on which the League has positions may be addressed as opportunities arise.

## Two National Studies Underway: Money In Politics and Amending the Constitution

The Citizens United Supreme Court decision undid most of the good changes that had taken place following the Watergate scandals of the 1970s. The League has decided to review and update the issue. This spring, the LWVUS will begin posting materials on its website. Leagues are urged to use these materials for presentations to inform members and the community and to prepare members for the study and consensus process on First Amendment issues involved with political speech.

### Be in the Know

It's easy to keep track of the issues that are nearest and dearest to you. The RI Legislature's web page has links that provide easy access to the text of bills and where a particular bill is along the path to becoming a law. Visit [webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/legislation/](http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/legislation/) to track a bill and get connected. The same links also provide direct e-mail to your senator and representative.

The League also posts updates on the issues on its blog, (<http://lwvriaction.blogspot.com>.) You can also check out some past posting on the blog for great background information (like why we didn't support the final ethics bill in 2014). We also post lots of updates and background pieces on our Facebook page. If you "like" us on Facebook, you'll receive regular automatic updates, or you can just visit, [https://www.facebook.com/lwvrhodeisland?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/lwvrhodeisland?ref=aymt_homepage_panel).

And don't forget, once you have the information you need: **TAKE ACTION!**

### Priorities continued from page 4

Each year, the LWVRI establishes legislative priorities for the upcoming session based on League positions, opportunities for legislative success, support of coalition partners, and the interests of LWVRI members in working on issues. Advocacy Committee will submit the following priorities for Board approval at their next meeting.

Members are encouraged to join us to work on issues that are of interest to them. Even if an issue is not a priority, we do try to follow all issues on which the state or national Leagues have positions. We could do a lot more with more volunteers! To learn more about the League's position download a copy of *Impact on Issues* for the LWVUS positions and visit [www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org) for LWVRI's positions.

The announced deadline for submitting bills this year is February 13. League members are needed to follow legislation introduced on gun safety, food safety or environmental legislation, as well as to attend the Board of Elections, Ethics Committee or Judicial Nominating Committee meetings. Please contact Susan Escherich [sescherich@verizon.net](mailto:sescherich@verizon.net) or 401-433-4896 to discuss helping out. Members can also make a difference by writing letters or testifying in support of League positions should the time arrive.

A study guide and the consensus questions will be made available in the fall. Consensus will be completed before February 1, 2016. Materials will be coming from the national study committee, including a suggested reading list. Participants will also look at state and local laws governing money in politics and identify local resource and experts to work with the League in developing community education forums.

LWVRI members will recall that voters decided not to approve the call for RI constitutional convention in the 2014 elections. Did you know Article V of the U.S. Constitution provide also allows for a convention? There are actually two ways of proposing amendments to the nation's fundamental charter. Congress, by a two-thirds vote of both chambers, may propose constitutional amendments to the states for ratification. Or, the legislatures of two-thirds of the states (34 at present) may ask Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution; this is commonly called an Article V. The first method has been used by Congress to submit 33 amendments to the states, beginning with the Bill of Rights. The second method, an Article V Convention, has never been successfully invoked.

League study will explore the process for proposing an Article V Convention in order to determine whether LWVUS would support such a convention and if so, under what circumstances.

If you are interested in participating in either of these studies, check with your local League to see if a study committee is forming. If not, consider volunteering to help lead the study.

For more information visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and login to the members only section.

## Understanding the Issues

**The Issue: Determining prisoners' addresses.** Currently when the U.S. Census is taken, prisoners at the Adult Correctional Institute in Cranston are counted as if the prison were their residence rather than where the prisoner had lived when arrested. This practice skews populations in redistricting, resulting in an over count of the population in the district where the AIC is and an under count in the districts where the prisoners were actually from. This, in turn, affected redistricting when new districts were created. The League would like to see a prisoner's residence be the address at the time of arrest.

**The Issue: Early voting.** The long lines and delays that frustrate voters on election day can be alleviated if voters are able to vote on the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday preceding election day. Early voting in person means more opportunities for workers to make it to the polls without having to struggle with work and child care conflicts. It also reduces the chance of fraud that occurs in mail-in ballots, which was reported in the 2014 election. Early voting is also supported by the LWVUS position on "Citizen's Right to Vote."

# ACCESS/RI Government Agency Audit Update

by Linda Lotridge Levin

It was almost a year ago that ACCESS/RI, a coalition of non-profit organizations dedicated to keeping the workings of government open to its citizens, decided it was time to test the effectiveness of amendments made in 2012 to strengthen the Access to Public Records Act (APRA). (Member organizations of ACCESS/RI include the Rhode Island League of Women Voters, the Rhode Island Press Association, Common Cause Rhode Island, and the ACLU of Rhode Island.) Using a grant from the National Freedom of Information Coalition, ACCESS hired MuckRock, a collaborative investigative news site in Boston, to conduct an audit of selected local and state agencies to see how the amendments were working.

Members of MuckRock conducted the audits by e-mail and fax during the late spring and early summer 2014. They made a few in-person visits to local police stations. In all, they audited all 39 cities and towns and 24 state agencies representing a cross section of public and quasi-public agencies. The audit was released publicly in early September showing that most of the agencies surveyed violated one part or another of the law.

ACCESS/RI, which retained editorial control over the project, produced a booklet containing details of the audits and recommendations for improving access to public information at the state and local levels. With the remainder of the grant, ACCESS/RI mailed copies of the booklet to all of the agencies audited.

The APRA amendments tested were: Police departments are required to provide arrest logs containing basic arrest information within 48 hours or 72 hours if the request is made over a weekend or holiday; all public entities are required to post their APRA procedures on their websites; these agencies must have an administrator who has been trained and certified by the attorney general to handle APRA requests; and public employee contracts and payments received by employees when they leave employment are public documents.

The APRA clearly states that a public body receiving a request to inspect public records “shall permit the inspection or copying within ten (10) business days after receiving a request. If the inspection or copying is not permitted within ten (10) business days, the public body shall forthwith explain in writing the need for additional time to comply with the request.”

What the audit found was:

- Dozens of agencies violated the 10 business day response window when asked for routine documents such as employee contracts and arrest reports.
- More than half of police departments (20 out of 39) failed to provide basic arrest information within 48 hours as required under the 2012 APRA revisions.
- More than a third of government agencies surveyed failed to

meet APRA training and certification requirements for 2014.

- Most agencies had adopted written APRA procedures, but nearly a quarter had not posted these procedures online as required by the statute.

ACCESS/RI decided that the results of the audit demanded that the report include recommendations to ensure future compliance with the law. Some of them are:

- The Attorney General’s office must enhance its oversight by posting publicly a list of those public bodies that do not comply with the certification requirement in the first month of the year.
- There should be a strong presumption that any public body without APRA-certified employees is deemed to have engaged in a knowing and willful violation of the law. Such a finding by the Superior Court is necessary for a fine of up to \$2,000 to be imposed against the public body or agency.
- The Attorney General’s office should collaborate with the police departments to develop a legally adequate police log form.
- The Office of the Attorney General which is responsible for enforcing APRA must become more aggressive in seeking penalties against violators.
- The General Assembly should consider further reforms to APRA to strengthen compliance.

In December, ACCESS/RI filed 14 complaints against the various agencies with the attorney general alleging 53 separate violations which ranged from failure to post written APRA procedures on official websites to records requests that were filled more than 40 days late.

A breakdown of the complaints showed the New Shoreham Police Department with seven violations; the West Warwick School Department with six, and the Warren Police Department with five. Those with four violations were the East Greenwich School Department; the Newport School Department; the R.I. Office of the Auditor General, and the West Greenwich Police Department. The Charlestown Police Department, the R.I. Department of Labor and Training, the R.I. Department of Corrections, and the Scituate Town Clerk and the Warren Town Clerk each had three violations, and the Providence Police Department and the R.I. State Police each had two.

To read the complete audit, go to [www.accessri.org](http://www.accessri.org) and click on “FOI Audits” at the top of the home page.

*Linda Lotridge Levin is Professor Emerita, Journalism, University of Rhode Island and a board member of ACCESS/RI*

# League Day at the State House

## “Make a Difference at the State House with the League”

### with guest speaker Governor Gina Raimondo

## March 24, 2014—Reserve Today!

**Register Today—Seating is very limited, so please register early; deadline is March 20.** Cost: \$10; Students: \$5. **Bring some guests! Members who bring two or more non-League members to the event will receive free registration.** Please send this form with your payment; the price includes the program and reception with hors d'oeuvres, sweets and beverages.

YES! I will join you for League Day at the State House.

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 per person      Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ the student rate \$5

YES! I am bringing non-member guests to League Day at the State House. Their names are listed below.

Number of guests \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 per person/\$5 per student—My registration is Free! Please enclose payment for your guests with this registration

I cannot attend, but I have enclosed a donation to the League of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as you wish it listed on your badge) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Names of my guests

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made out to the LWVRI for \_\_\_\_\_ registrations.

**Please make checks payable to: LWVRI and mail to Rosemary Forbes Woodside, LWVRI Treasurer, 23 Skysail Ct., Jamestown, RI 02835.**

Questions? Call Jill Kassis, [jhkassis@gmail.com](mailto:jhkassis@gmail.com); (401) 924-0854

### League Day *continued from page 7*

them to stop by from 3:00-4 to “Meet the League.” It will be a great opportunity for local League members to connect with their representatives and set up that first contact before meeting with them to discuss the League’s advocacy priorities.

The social hour will be followed by presentations by members. We’ll hear from the Advocacy Committee on our priorities for the 2015 legislative session.. There will be handouts on women’s health issues, elections and voting, and the ethics bill which will allow you to later confidently present the issues to your representatives. We’ll have a short session on the mechanics of our biennial Convention—what work will be accomplished and how you can become involved as a delegate. Local Leagues and the LWVRI Education Fund will also present reports.

The *New York Times*’ Frank Bruni called Governor Raimondo, “A Democrat to watch in 2015.” A native of Smithfield, Rhode Island, she graduated from Harvard, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and received her law degree from Yale. She was elected General Treasurer in 2014 and is perhaps best known for tackling the Rhode Island pension crisis. Bruni

wrote of her, “She takes risks, colors outside the lines and seeks a tone all her own. That’s worthy of note.”

The Governor will speak at 5 and we hope there will be a bit of time after she speaks for some Q&A.

“We are very pleased to have Rhode Island’s first woman governor as our speaker at League Day,” says LWVRI President Jane Koster. “It should make what is always a special event even more special as our Governor shares her energy and ideas for a better Rhode Island. I look forward to seeing many of you there.”

Registration for the event is \$10. The deadline for registration is March 22. Don’t forget, there will be no registration fee for any member who is accompanied by two or more guests. Register online at [www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org) or mail in the registration form above.

League Day is held in the Governor’s Reception Room. Parking is available on the street outside the State House or at the nearby Providence Place Mall garage. Please join us and bring friends who also are interested in good government.



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## Coming Up—League Events

**Thursday, March 5, 1 P.M.**

Book Group. *Alice Roosevelt Longworth, from White House Princess to Washington Power Broker* by Stacey A. Cordery. All are welcome. To learn more about the Book Group, call Hollie Courage at 401-274-6173 or Linda Jenkins at 401-816-0331.

**Monday, March 9, 10 A.M.-NOON**

LWVRI Board meeting. Weaver Memorial Library, East Providence.

**Thursday, March 12, 6:30 P.M.**

LWV Providence's "Conversation: The East Side Engages Providence." See story on page 3.

**Thursday, March 19, 6:30 P.M.**

LWV Providence's "Conversation: Latino Education and Engagement." See story on page 3.

**Saturday, March 21, 9:45 A.M.**

LWV Newport County's Meet your Legislators Forum. Newport Public Library. See story on page 3.

**Tuesday, March 24, 3:00 – 6:00 P.M.**

League Day at the State House: "Make a Difference at the State House with the League" with guest speaker Governor Gina Raimondo. See page 1 for details.

**Thursday, March 26, 6:30 P.M.**

LWV Providence's "Conversation: Technology and Community Engagement." See story on page 3.

**Thursday, April 3, 1 P.M.**

Book Group. *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. All are welcome. To learn more about the Book Group, call Hollie Courage at 401-274-6173 or Linda Jenkins at 401-816-0331.

**Monday, April 13, 10 A.M.-NOON**

LWVRI Board meeting. Jamestown Philomenian Library, Jamestown.

**Monday, May 11, 10 A.M.-NOON**

LWVRI Board meeting. Weaver Memorial Library, East Providence.

**Friday-Sunday, May 15-17**

Quad State Wells, Maine.

**Saturday, June 13, 10 A.M.**

LWVRI Biennial Convention. Guest Speaker: Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea. Check [www.lwvri.org](http://www.lwvri.org) and future *Voters* for updates and details.

**Wednesday, August 26, 11 A.M.**

Celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment and the founding of the League, Marble House, Newport.