



# Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)

October 2019 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

**Invitation to Tuesday, October 22, 2019 CWI Meeting, Noon-1:30 PM**  
**The Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 5th Floor; entrance on New Hampshire Ave., NW**  
**(Nearest Metro Stop: Dupont Circle, north or south exit)**  
**RSVP is now required. See <https://womensclearinghouse.org>**

## Empowering Girls, Globally and Domestically

Each year, the international community celebrates the [International Day of the Girl Child](#) on October 11th. Too often, decisions kick global challenges down the road without the input of those that will be affected—our children. Recently, however, youth—and girls in particular—have been raising their voices to address some of the major crises of our time. From climate activist Greta Thunberg to gun control advocate and co-organizer of the March for our Lives, Emma Gonzales, girls are working to ensure that we live in a safer, healthier, more just world. This meeting is focusing on organizations and activists working to empower our next generation of women leaders by equipping girls with the skills, confidence, and tools to create a feminist future in the United States and around the globe. Speakers include:

**Wendy Schaezel Lesko**, who helped mobilize U.S. support for the [International Day of the Girl](#) in 2011, will speak about the history of the movement to establish this annual event, the ways in which it is observed around the world, and how civil society and activists can work empower girls every day. Ms. Lesko founded the Youth Activism Project in 1992 with the publication of her book, *No Kidding Around! America's Young Activists Are Changing Our World & You Can Too*. This project provides free advice to young people who want to pursue lasting change in the public policy arena and offers consulting services to organizations on how to support authentic youth-led advocacy and multi-generational collaboration. Ms. Lesko has presented over 1,000 keynote speeches and workshops in more than 30 states. In 2004, with a group of preteens, she launched School Girls Unite to promote collaboration amongst young women in Mali and the U.S. as philanthropists and political activists. School Girls Unite led the successful national campaign in 2011 to generate U.S. support for the newly established United Nations International Day of the Girl. Ms. Lesko worked for three years as a community organizer for the United Farm Workers Union after she graduated from Rollins College. In 1975, she returned to Washington, DC and became managing editor of the *Congressional Monitor* and then started "Today on the Hill," a daily live broadcast on WTOP radio. She co-authored two books, *The People Rising: The Campaign to Defeat the Bork Nomination* with Michael Pertschuk and *The Maternity Sourcebook* with Matthew Lesko.

**Lara S. Kaufmann**, Director of Public Policy for Girls Inc., will discuss opportunities to advance girls' rights and opportunities and empower girls to advocate for social change. Girls Inc. serves girls 6-18 at more than 1,500 sites in 350 cities across the U.S. and Canada who work help girls realize their full potential. Ms. Kaufmann directs [#GirlsToo](#), the Girls Inc. national public awareness and advocacy campaign to prevent and address sexual harassment and sexual violence among youth. Prior to joining Girls Inc., Ms. Kaufmann was Senior Counsel and Director of Education Policy for At-Risk Students at the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), where she engaged in litigation, advocacy, and outreach to improve educational outcomes for at-risk girls and young women. She co-authored NWLC's 2014 report, *Unlocking Opportunity for African American Girls: A Call to Action for Education Equity*, its 2012 report, *A Pregnancy Test for Schools: The Impact of Education Laws on Pregnant and Parenting Students*, and its 2009 report, *Listening to Latinas: Barriers to High School Graduation*. Ms. Kaufmann also worked for the Federal Trade Commission, as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, a law firm, and a U.S. District Court. She has a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law and an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan.

**[Representatives from other organizations with feminist youth activities should come to share information.](#)**

**CWI meetings are free and open to the public Bring your own lunch. An RSVP to attend is required.**

**Go to <https://womensclearinghouse.org>. Next CWI Meeting, noon Tuesday January 22, 2020.**

## To Vote or Not to Vote..... Is Not the Question: Being an educated and confident voter is the point!

In these days fraught with reports of leaks, data breaches, false media, and election fraud, one may be tempted to say they will just pass on this election until they can be assured that “their vote will be truly counted.”

Don't give in to frustration and doubt! We need everyone to vote to secure this year's election! That was the message that the three speakers at our recent CWI meeting on Elections and Cybersecurity.

**Your registration to vote is your first line of defense-** **Aquene Freechild**, from Public Citizen, urged voters to make sure your registration is:

- Valid – many do not realize that voting registrations are purged at regular intervals, such as those who have not voted for at least two cycles of federal elections in VA. It is not like a once in a lifetime event- it has to be kept current and you should check on it **before every election**. If you need to check your registration status, you can go to <https://www.vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote/> and enter your name to make sure you are registered. Be sure you do it before the deadline in your city or county.
- At your proper address - so your name will be in the precinct book of your correct polling place. It is also good to be sure you are going to the right balloting location. Remember that redistricting has taken place in at least one close by state so you need to check in advance.

**Are you worried about the voting process being subject to hacking?** While that is a legitimate concern, it has been countered by many states who have returned to using paper ballots, which could allow for a recount should it be needed. The marked ballots are run through Optical Scanners. The results, while counted by machine, can be checked against a sample of the paper ballots to ensure the outcome is correct using a technique called risk limiting post-election audit, already in use in Colorado and Rhode Island. Our speaker, **Edgardo Cortes** from the Brennan Center for Justice, who had extensive experience in VA voting procedures, noted that new programs and processes are coming on the scene all the time to protect voting integrity. One particularly effective way to protect the vote is to do a post-election audit. One of the big hindrances is getting sufficient funds to upgrade systems to state of the art security. The campaign to get funds from Congress is ongoing. See [SecureOurVote.us](https://www.secureourvote.us) to take action.

**Are you Immune to “Fake News”?** Using public influence campaigns to suppress the votes in a certain location and with certain types of voters was discussed by **David Brody** from the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights under the Law. He warned the attendees about online voter suppression techniques targeting voters through data collected on preferences by outside vendors. Once targeted, political groups can create “deep fake” videos that look and sound real but are heavily manipulated. One of the frustrations of dealing with these tricks is that the platforms like Facebook and Twitter don't move quickly to remove the inaccurate content - if at all. Examine the information you receive about the candidates running for office to ensure it is coming from source that is sponsored by the candidates or otherwise accountable. If you have a doubt, go to [www.snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com). Online propaganda campaigns have managed to threaten the participation in and outcome of the election. There is a possibility that similar tactics will discourage people from participating in the 2020 Census. You often cannot tell if the material you receive is the reality or the reality created by the platforms for you. David reminded us that If you feel your right to vote is improperly challenged or you become aware of other election anomalies at the place you expect to poll, you should immediately call the Election Protection Coalition at 866-OUR-VOTE. They have immediate legal help available.

**Aquene Freechild** noted that election security is a political issue as well as real technical concern. What is needed is national attention and legislative action to ensure voting security. Attempts are being made to replace paperless voting systems by passing HR3351 to provide funding to states to upgrade the security of their voting systems. We were urged to contact our U.S. senators and ask for \$600 M+ for election security funding and accountability to be passed by Congress before Thanksgiving.

The session gave us a lot to consider and do before and after the next election. You should be sure to view the videos linked in the summary of this great September 24 CWI meeting!

**Connie Cordovilla**  
Co- President, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

## [CWI Meeting Summary, September 24, 2019:](#) [Cybersecurity and Election Protection](#)

Our well-informed presenters alerted us to many threats to fair elections that we as informed citizens need to know about, but at the same time they pointed out that we should not make these threats discourage voters. These election security experts also pointed out that some states like Virginia which has its elections for all state house and senate members November 5, 2019 is better prepared than some other states to protect and detect cybersecurity and other threats to its elections since Virginia has returned to using paper ballots. From a feminist perspective the November 2019 Virginia elections are important for many reasons including the potential to make Virginia the 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment which it missed passing by just one vote during its last legislative session!



The first presenter was **Aquene Freechild**, Co-Director, Democracy is for People Campaign, [Public Citizen](#) where she focuses on election security, getting money out of politics, and ensuring that everyone's vote counts. She co-founded the Secure Our Vote coalition (SecureOurVote.us) to help state and local election officials protect from, and if needed, recover from computer errors or hacks. She recently led the passage of the 2018 DC Fair Elections Act. She emphasized that cybersecurity and elections involve both political and technical issues.

Aquene showed a short video which discussed three cybersecurity election challenges: diverse decentralized voting technology where the most vulnerable locations can be targeted, problems with election management system computers, and even problems with desirable paper ballots which are often thrown away without audits. She then discussed how malicious actors have hacked and used other ways to disrupt elections. Solutions include paper ballots, well trained poll-workers, election audits, countering questionable activity and social media, providing more federal funding for election security. There are many things we can do including volunteering to be a poll worker. A 16 minute [video](#) of the Aquene Freechild's presentation is on YouTube and linked on the Programs page of the [CWI website](#).

The second presenter was **Edgardo Cortes**, Election Security Advisor, [Brennan Center for Justice](#) where he works on the development of regulations, legislation and litigation related to election security. When he was the first Virginia Commissioner of Elections, he led voter registration and election administration modernization efforts which resulted in: establishing paperless voter registration at DMV locations, integrating DMV transactions with the online voter registration system, and establishing an online, paperless absentee ballot request system and an easier to use voter registration form. He also created an online assessment of election administration and made election data more accessible to the public. Check out his [report](#) on "*Better Safe Than Sorry: How Election Officials Can Plan Ahead to Protect the Vote in the Face of a Cyber Attack*" which he said is now being updated.



Edgardo noted that the overall cost of just basic election security for state and local governments should be over \$2 billion over 5 years. This would include equipment, voter machines, training, replacing outdated systems, planning for and as needed conducting post-election audits. The federal government has not provided sufficient funding or guidance on secure and fair elections. Much is left to local levels which also

need to have contingency plans when there are various problems as he experienced in VA. Problems may occur with voter registration, poll books, ballot marking devices, and even with tabulations of paper ballots. Election night reporting can also be misleading. Initially, Department of Elections websites give only unofficial results. Private vendors of equipment and training are not now regulated. In MD they found a private vendor partly owned by Russians. Procedures for post-election risk limiting audits are important but they should be examined. An 18 minute [video](#) of Edgardo Cortes's presentation is available on YouTube and listed on the CWI website Programs page.



**David Brody**, Counsel & Senior Fellow for Privacy and Technology, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, [www.Lawyerscommittee.org](http://www.Lawyerscommittee.org) was the final presenter. He pointed out that the Lawyers Committee provides voter helplines such as 866-OUR-VOTE. David also has experience at the Federal Communications Commission where he wrote federal regulations about consumer privacy on the Internet and conducted antitrust reviews of telecommunications mergers.

David pointed out that litigation on voter suppression has been helpful. In Georgia paperless voting systems were ruled unconstitutional and change is required before the 2020 elections. He explained how cybersecurity media threats start by gaining trust of desired target groups and then influence them to change their voting behavior, by either not voting or voting as the Russians or other foreign or domestic infiltrators desire. It is likely to continue in future elections where domestic corrupters might be harder to detect than foreign manipulators since the domestic enemies better understand nuances. We are also concerned with deep fake videos where we can't tell difference real and fake videos and they will get better as artificial intelligence technology advances. He predicts deep fake videos will likely involve racial slurs. Related threats involve intimidating voters such as fake flyers supposedly from ICE about checking citizenship. There was also doxing of election officials and some racist and antisemitic robo calls. Trump put on some fake ads which compared migrants with drug cartels and Facebook didn't take it down.

Solutions involve sophisticated monitoring of social media and for the platforms to regulate themselves. This problem also applies to 2020 Census participation. HR 1 has some language about stopping deceptive voter suppression but it is not sufficient. Even experts don't know what is happening on many platforms. The platforms need to publish data and partner with voter protection organizations so they can mobilize when there are problems. The [video](#) of David Brody's presentation is about 25 minutes.

## Coming DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to [president@womensclearinghouse.org](mailto:president@womensclearinghouse.org). LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook [www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse](http://www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse) and Twitter [www.twitter.com/CWINews](http://www.twitter.com/CWINews) pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Times are EST. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on feminist meetings and activities.

**Exhibits: Check out [Washington.org/suffrage](http://Washington.org/suffrage) and [#suffrage100DC](https://twitter.com/suffrage100DC)**

**Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote** Library of Congress Southwest Gallery, Thomas Jefferson Building. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Handwritten letters, speeches, photographs and scrapbooks, created by American suffragists who persisted for more than 70 years to win voting rights for women, will be featured in a new exhibition at the Library of Congress. [Loc.gov/suffrage](http://Loc.gov/suffrage)

**Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence**, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery to January 5, 2020. [Npg.si.edu](http://Npg.si.edu)

**Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote**, National Archives to January 3, 2021, 10 AM-5:30 PM.  
Archives.gov/women

**#BecauseOfHerStory** or Americanhistory.si.edu

**The Exchange**, Dumbarton House to April 2021 in Georgetown. DumbartonHouse.org

**Ordinary Equality: DAR Members and the Road to Women's Suffrage, 1890-1920** to April 2021. Dar.org

**The Rights of Women and the Legacy of the American Revolution**, Americanrevolutioninstitute.org

**Special tour, Votes for Women**. The Capitol Visitor Center, visitthecapitol.gov/event-calendar

Contact the Maryland Commission on Women by November 1, 2019 with **nominations for the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame**. [www.marylandwomen.org](http://www.marylandwomen.org).

## Events

**Tuesday, October 15, 1PM, Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and her husband, Robert Cramer** will share their thoughts on the impeachment inquiry and other events. Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036. [Register](#) (lunch served 12:15 \$30)

**Wednesday, October 16, 7-8:30. Woman of Achievement and Celebration of NBWW**, Montgomery County Business & Professional Women. Twinbrook Library, 202 Meadow Hall Drive, Rockville, MD 20851. For more information contact SusanHorst@yahoo.com.

**Saturday, October 19, 11AM to 1 PM. Time Travel with Virginia Hall: America's Greatest Spy**. Maryland Women's Heritage Center. The Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. [For Information](#).

**Saturday, October 19, 8-11PM, Evening of Chocolate: Roaring Twenties-Themed Gala**, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland, Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane, Clarksville, MD. [For more Information](#)

**Tuesday, October 22 Noon. Empowering Girls, Globally & Domestically**, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues. Page 1

**Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 4 PM. Commemorative Tea with "Sojourner Truth"** Join us for tea with "Sojourner Truth." Passionate impersonator Pat Sloan. Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036. [Register](#) \$35.

**Saturday November 23, 9AM to 4:30 PM. Fall Agenda Conference: Looking Back, Moving Forward**, Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, Chesapeake Arts Center, 194 Hammonds Lave, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225. For [Information](#)

*CWI's newsletter is endowed by friends in loving memory of our previous longtime editor, Roslyn Kaiser*

*Meeting summary by Taylor Bush, Intern, Public Citizen and Presenters. Photos by Perry Klein.*

*Newsletter edited by Sue Klein*

### **CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2020**

**OFFICERS:** Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla; VP Membership, Harriett Stonehill; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, Helen Mulkeen; VP Diversity, Alotta Taylor; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado; VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin; Director, Linda Fihelly **DIRECTOR EMERITA:** Elaine Newman, **EX OFFICIO:** Co-President, Harriett Stonehill

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# Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

## Membership Form

[womensclearinghouse.org](http://womensclearinghouse.org)

**Three ways to join or to renew:**

1. Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this form to a CWI meeting or
2. Mail form & check to Holly Joseph, CWI Treasurer, 8504 Rosewood Drive, Bethesda MD 20814-1434 or
3. Pay through PayPal, by selecting the desired membership option on our website's membership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/> & please send this form by USPS or email to [treasurer@womensclearinghouse.org](mailto:treasurer@womensclearinghouse.org)

The CWI membership year is **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in the end year (e.g. 2019-2022 for a 3-yr membership). Payment puts you on the email list to receive CWI newsletters and many feminist announcements during your membership.

**Membership Years Covered: 2019 - 202**\_\_\_\_ **Date of Payment** \_\_\_\_\_

**INDIVIDUAL**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE: H/W** \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL** \_\_\_\_\_

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - reduced for multiple-year memberships**

\_\_\_\_\$15/1yr.-for those < 30 yrs. old    \_\_\_\_\$25/1yr.    \_\_\_\_\$45/2yrs.    \_\_\_\_\$65/3yrs.

**Virtual membership** - only for those outside the metropolitan DC area \_\_\_\_\$20/1yr.    \_\_\_\_\$50/3yrs.

**ORGANIZATION**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME & EMAIL of Organization Representative: 1)** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME & EMAIL of Organization Representative: 2)** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization website address (URL) if to be included on CWI website, pending CWI approval:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - reduced for multiple-year memberships**

\_\_\_\_\$40/1 year    \_\_\_\_\$70/2 yrs.    \_\_\_\_\$100/3 yrs. (This covers emails to two reps. listed above.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues (from above)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional tax-deductible contribution

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL ENCLOSED**

Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.