



# Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

October 2018 CWI Newsletter (Rev. p1)

<https://womensclearinghouse.org>

**Invitation to the Tuesday, October 23, 2018 Meeting of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)  
Noon-1:30 PM at 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 for Program is now needed for security purposes. See <https://womensclearinghouse.org>**

## Protecting Every Vote: Procedures for Safe and Fair Elections

The fall 2018 CWI meetings are focusing on increasing our knowledge of ways to help with the midterm elections and beyond! On Tuesday, October 23, CWI will host a panel discussion entitled, "Protecting Every Vote: Procedures for Safe and Fair Elections." This event will include high-level experts from the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, and the Campaign Legal Center. They will highlight how we can make sure our elections are safe and fair and that there is voter encouragement, not suppression! This meeting is organized and chaired by **Megan Corrado, Esq., CWI Vice President, Global Issues.**

**Celina Stewart, Director of Advocacy and Litigation, and Jeanette Senecal, Senior Director of Mission Impact, League of Women Voters** will discuss expanding civic engagement and empowerment opportunities for all voters. Ms. Stewart and Ms. Senecal will also provide immediate strategies to improve and monitor elections. Ms. Stewart develops and implements League political strategies and policy positions around election reform and voting rights issues; oversees prospective litigation for the national and state Leagues; works closely with League grassroots staff in implementing the national agenda; and serves as the lead lobbyist and liaison with Congress and the Administration for the League. Ms. Senecal helped develop and launch the award-winning VOTE411.org website in 2006, which reached over four million voters in 2016. She leads the League's efforts on issues such as reforming and modernizing election laws and expanding voting rights and access.

**Allegra Chapman, Director of Voting and Elections, Common Cause,** will discuss election integrity, voting protection mechanisms and strategies, and the ways in which every vote can be accurately counted. Ms. Chapman leads national and state efforts to reduce barriers to voting and ensure that elections run efficiently and fairly throughout the country. Ms. Chapman previously served as staff counsel for Demos from 2008-2011, where she engaged in litigation and negotiations in several states to enforce Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act, which requires public assistance agencies to provide voter registration services to their clients. She also helped defend the constitutionality of New York's statute eliminating prison-based gerrymandering and worked on other elector reforms, including Election Day voter registration. From 2011 until joining Common Cause, Ms. Chapman was an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Bureau for the State of New York, where she brought actions for violations of federal, state, and local civil rights laws on employment discrimination, racial profiling in public accommodations, religious rights infringements, and police matters, amongst others.

**Erin Chlopak, Senior Legal Counsel, Campaign Legal Center, (CLC)** will discuss campaign finance laws and the ways in which they affect elections and disenfranchise certain voters. Ms. Chlopak joined CLC in August 2018, after spending nearly a decade working on a wide range of campaign finance issues in the Federal Election Commission's Office of General Counsel. Her areas of focus include CLC's appellate and district court litigation and its Federal Reform and State and Local Reform programs.

**CWI meetings are free and open to the public. Bring your lunch and information to share.**

**RSVP for Program to attend the meeting is now required for security purposes. Go to <https://womensclearinghouse.org>**

**Next CWI Meeting, Noon Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018. Outcomes of the November Elections: New Leaders for a New Era**

## Dear CWI Members,

CWI is active in supporting women's equality by signing on to letters, amicus briefs, and other advocacy initiatives. This month, we met with staff in the Office of Management and Budget to try to stop (or at least improve) the plans of the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education to weaken Title IX's institutional protections related to sexual harassment and assault. Please become a CWI member and join us in our monthly noon meetings to share your expertise and commitment and to advance gender equality in the U.S. and globally. Member organizations and individuals receive our CWI newsletter and information on feminist meetings, webinars, and more!

Co-President, Harriett Stonehill, shared recommendations from "The New Rules Summit," hosted and described by *The New York Times* (9-30-18), which assembled a group of 250 successful women leaders to examine challenges that women face and then devise practical recommendations for change led by business, policy makers, and individuals. Melinda Gates, of the Gates Foundation, urged participants to strive to: "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." In doing so, she urged women to insist on equal educational opportunities for girls, support universal access to contraceptives, get more women in leadership positions as lawmakers, chief executives, and decision makers of all kinds, and amplify the voices of young activists.

The session on "Eliminating Unconscious Bias," was chaired by Iris Bohnet. Speakers urged Businesses to emphasize transparency in processes, incentives, and outcomes. Policymakers should expand the definition of family care, so that resources are proportionally allocated based on incomes. Individuals in the workplace should immediately identify bias and support others who call out coworkers for biased behaviors. They should vote in elections, run for office, and lobby in favor of policies that could have a wider impact. (See following summary of September 25, 2018 CWI meeting.)

The session on "Sexual Harassment," chaired by Marianne Cooper, recommended that: Business leaders must take a stand and establish a culture in which talking about sexual harassment is encouraged and not punished, and establish a system for people to call out troubling behavior. Policymakers should establish sexual harassment education in kindergarten through high school based on research. Lastly, individuals who see something, should say something. Whatever your level of power, speak up and call bad behavior out.

The session on "Closing the Pay Gap," chaired by Hannah Riley Bowles, urged Business leaders to push companies to be transparent and accountable concerning their pay and hiring practices. Policymakers should require companies with more than 250 employees to publicly disclose wage gaps based on gender. Individuals should take advantage of on-line data bases to determine the general salary range for their positions.

"Boardroom Diversity" was chaired by Debra L. Lee. Business leaders must prioritize the promotion of diversity among leadership on boards and in their respective companies. Women and minorities should make up half of the board members. This can be helped by implementing term limits. Policymakers in state governments should require public companies to have women on all types of boards. Individual workers can urge institutional investors and companies to hold boards accountable on diversity.

"Parenthood Penalty" was chaired by Lori Nishiura Mackenzie. Business Leaders must recognize that a variety of managerial, technological, and cultural norms must change. Organizations must offer paid leave to all employees seeking family or medical time off. Flexible schedules should be encouraged. Working parents and their needs should be supported regardless of gender. Policymakers need to facilitate reliable universal child care to support working parents and ensure there are well enforced policies prohibiting parental discrimination. Under Individuals, working parents should be considered the norm and their skills and values should be appreciated.

Other topics included: Intersectionality: Race and Gender, Securing the Pipeline, and Men as Change Agents. Many of the Summit recommendations have been discussed in past CWI meetings and CWI members have been supporting them. A key way to continue this effort is to get out the vote and electing officials that will seek to implement these recommendations!

**Harriett Stonehill Co-President, CWI and Sue Klein Co-President, CWI**

## CWI Meeting Summary, September 25, 2018

### Strategies for Supporting Progressive Women Running for Office



**Connie Cordovilla**, CWI's Vice President for Strategic Policies who is also President of Virginia NOW, organized and moderated this meeting. Getting progressive women elected to office is critical for enacting and enforcing policies that benefit and support women and families. There are many ways this can be done through money, volunteering, and training candidates. One of the ways to support a candidate is through lobbying efforts. Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organizations can spend up to 20% of their money on lobbying efforts and a 501(c)(4) can dedicate all of their money to lobbying. Another way to support women is through programs such as Emerge America. They help progressive women run for office by training them in critical skills that are needed to launch and win a campaign. These points were discussed by our speakers from the Feminist Majority Foundation and Emerge America. They both presented practical ways to help women and described how an organization can leverage their power to do so.

**Loretto Gubernatis**, CWI Vice President Media Relations is a film maker, author and producer. She has won 15 Telly Awards for her television productions including the documentaries and she is the president and owner of McDonagh-Davis Associates and the HBCTV YouTube network Channel. Her film and TV genre stretches from children's programs to art museums, women's history, the celebration of black history, the Baltimore Teen Scene, the Senior Scene and sports shows. Gubernatis described how she provides opportunities for candidates and elected officials through her TV shows, "Her Voice" and "A Place at the Table." (See her YouTube [Channel Hanburycross](#). Just type in the name of the show i.e. *Her Voice* and it will take you to the shows.) Gubernatis shared clips from her many videos focusing on women and suggested how women candidates can utilize social media, particularly video, to enhance their public image and get their messages across. She also described how she provides opportunities for candidates and elected officials through her TV shows, "[Her Voice](#)" and "A Place at the Table." She volunteered to help candidates and their supporters create low cost campaign videos or post-campaign interviews which they can share on YouTube and other social media. The 9-17-18 *Washington Post* article, "Roll video, and roll to victory?" by Karen Heller, discussed how some women candidates are investing in family centered professional videos. The professional Gubernatis videos may be an effective lower cost option. Resulting videos can be used by the candidates and their supporters. Email: [mcdonagh\\_davis@msn.com](mailto:mcdonagh_davis@msn.com)



**Alice Cohan**, Political Director, Feminist Majority has been a feminist activist for over 45 years. Before joining the Feminist Majority, she worked for NOW for about 20 years, serving as ERA Field Organizer, Field Director, and Political Director. She has worked in many political campaigns for feminist women candidates, especially projects, such as "Elect Women for a Change". Cohan has directed major rallies and marches for the ERA and reproductive justice and worked on LGBTQ, Civil Rights, and Labor marches. The largest March she directed was the 2004 March for Women's Lives, which brought over 1 million supporters. She has done multiple political trainings, assessments of candidates, recommended endorsements, and offered political advice to many. She now chairs an informal network of Political Action Committees that focus on Feminist Candidates for Congress.

Cohan reminded us of the importance of electing candidates who support feminist policies because the perspectives of our elected officials impact all the issues that we care about from health care and reproductive rights to equal pay and environmental protection, and much more. She then discussed strategies for progressive groups to support candidates. She urged activist non-profit organizations that have 501(c)(3) tax deductible status to apply for 501(c)(4) tax status, so they can

endorse candidates and form political action committees (PACs) to support or oppose candidates. The Feminist Majority Foundation [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org) has a 501(c)(3) tax status, as does CWI. However, Cohan described how organizations and individuals can still be politically active without a PAC. For example, Feminist Majority Foundation (c)(3) organizes students on campuses to Get Out the Vote. See [www.feministmajority.org](http://www.feministmajority.org) and [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org). Cohan pointed out that (c)(3) organizations can still help by holding information sessions on issues and support legislation and rule-making, -using no more than 20% of their budget for lobbying, and supporting voter registration and other “get out the vote” efforts. However, 501(c)(4) organizations, such as The Feminist Majority and NOW, will also allow an organization to endorse candidates and form a (PAC,) which is a legal entity allowed to take direct action to endorse and contribute financial assistance and volunteer “in kind” support to specific candidates. PACs often provide information on candidates they endorse. For example, see <https://feministmajoritypac.org/candidates>. In response to a question about whether it is better for an individual to contribute to a candidate directly instead of to a PAC, Cohan pointed out that a candidate is especially likely to remember a larger combined donation from a PAC contribution.

More details on what feminist organizations can do to participate in supporting either partisan or non-partisan elections were discussed in our September 27, 2016 CWI meeting on “Complying with Non-Partisan Election Laws While Supporting Feminist Goals” by Eleanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority and Abby Levine, Director of the Bolder Advocacy Project of the Alliance for Justice. The [videos](#) by Gubernatis of this meeting are available on our CWI website. The meeting summary is in our [October 2016 CWI Newsletter](#). Cohan recommended using the Bolder Advocacy Guide and getting their training. See their website [www.BolderAdvocacy.org](http://www.BolderAdvocacy.org). Cohan also discussed the importance of the youth, women’s, minority, and elder vote and reminded everyone to know the location of their polling places. College students may take advantage of voting on or near their campus, but students in DC may also consider registering in their home state and using an absentee ballot if a home state vote might make more of an impact than a DC vote. You are never too young or too old to become politically active! We need you! Visit <http://www.feministmajority.org/>

**Laila Mohib** serves as Emerge America’s Expansion Director, overseeing the expansion of the organization’s training program for Democratic women into new states. During the past 15 years, Mohib has worked with elected officials, candidates, and organizations to develop skills in training, messaging, polling and outreach. She was the Director of Women’s Engagement and the Democratic Women’s Alliance at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) during the 2016 election cycles. During the 2014 season she held the role as the Director of Asian American and Pacific Islander Outreach also at the DNC. She has worked with the Communication Workers of America’s campaigns and spent two election cycles with EMILY’s List in the Political Department. She also worked in Congress, in Candidate Recruitment at Progressive Majority, and with the DNC’s Office of Independent Expenditures.  
<https://emergeamerica.org/>



Mohib pointed out that Emerge America is a 527 organization so they are partisan in only helping recruit and train Democratic women candidates to run for public office. They also trained transgender candidate, Danica Roem, who was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in November 2017. Emerge America continues to provide assistance and networking after training and tailors their six month programs to individual needs and challenges of the candidates. The Emerge America website, <https://emergeamerica.org>, provides information on their services, shows that they are working in 25 states, and asserts that “since 2002, Emerge America affiliates have recruited, trained and inspired over 4,000 women to run for elected office.” Mohib noted that they have a good track record in increasing the number of Democratic women leaders from diverse backgrounds: “37% of their graduates are women of color; 52% of the graduates have run for elected office and/or been appointed to a board or commission; and in 2017, 152 alumnae won their races — a 73% success rate.” Mohib also provided some insights on how Emerge America trains potential candidates on presenting themselves to voters, raising money for their campaigns, and other strategies to win and maintain their offices. Emerge America has active groups in Maryland and Virginia.

Congratulations to **Caitlyn Hughes** who has been selected as Executive Director of Solar Cookers International where she worked for the past four years. Caitlyn was a wonderful presenter at our June 19, 2018 CWI meeting on **Sustainable Energy: Key for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment**. See meeting summary in September CWI newsletter.

**Coming DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources**

In 2018 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list. Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to [president@womensclearinghouse.org](mailto:president@womensclearinghouse.org). Check out CWI's Facebook [www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse](http://www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse) and Twitter [www.twitter.com/CWINews](http://www.twitter.com/CWINews) pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us, as well as SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>.

**Note the Woman's National Democratic Club is sponsoring Winning Wednesdays to October 31, 2018 from 6-9 PM.** Share information on hot races, voter registration and more. Cash bar and snacks. Whittemore House, 1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW, DC 20036. Free: for more information see [www.democraticwoman.org](http://www.democraticwoman.org)

#### **October**

**Monday, October 15, 2018, 1-2:30 PM, A Conversation About Women in Leadership Ahead of the 2018 Midterms,** Women in Public Service Project, Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, DC. [RSVP](#)

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018 6:00-7:00 PM Webinar *If you Care About Stopping School Pushout, You Should Care About Reproductive Justice*,** National Women's Law Center. [Register Here](#).

**Thursday, October 18, 2018 9:30-11 AM, 3 Steps Congress Can Take NOW to End Domestic and Sexual Violence.** U.S. Capitol Visitor Center/ Room CVC 268, part of [YWCA Week without Violence](#).

**Thursday, October 18, 2018, 4-5:30 PM, A Gender Audit: What is It? How to do it? Why is it essential?** The SID-Washington Gender & Inclusive Development Workgroup. 1129 20<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC. [RSVP](#)

**Tuesday, October 23, 2018. 12-1:30 PM, Protecting Every Vote: Procedures for Safe and Fair Elections.** Clearinghouse on Women's Issues located at Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 5th Floor; entrance on New Hampshire Avenue NW.

**Tuesday, October 30, 2018. Women for Afghan Women celebrates International Day of the Girl. Details TBD.**

#### **November**

**Tuesday, November 27, 2018. 12-1:30 PM, Outcomes of the November Elections: New Leaders for a New Era** Clearinghouse on Women's Issues located at Alliance for Justice, 11 Dupont Circle, 5th Floor; entrance on New Hampshire Avenue NW.

#### **The CWI Board of Directors selected these potential Tuesday, Noon CWI meeting topics for 2019:**

**January 22, 2019. Using Media Safely, Expeditiously, and Effectively to Empower our Feminist Organizations.** Organizers: Loretto Gubernatis and Sherry Klein.

**February 26, 2019. Ensuring that the 2020 Census Does Not Discriminate against Immigrants and Others.** Organizers: Jeanette Lim Esbrook and Megan Corrado.

**March 26, 2019. Potential Collaboration between the National Women's History Museum and the Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative.** Organizers: Sue Klein and Holly Joseph

**April 23, 2019. Financial Literacy** Organizers: Connie Cordovilla and Anne Martin

**May 21, 2019. A Feminist Approach to U.S. Foreign Policy.** Organizer: Megan Corrado

**June 18, 2019. Collaboration Among Women's Organizations.** Organizers: TBD.

#### **Important Vacancy Notice**

The CWI Board is looking for a member to join the Board and serve as **CWI Secretary**. Join a dynamic team that plans and coordinates CWI programs and coordinates with other feminist and social justice organizations. Don't delay, contact any of our Board members listed below.

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

*Meeting summary Connie Cordovilla and Sarah Timmerman, FMF Intern. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein*

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

**OFFICERS:** Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Membership, Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado; VP Strategic Planning, Connie Cordovilla; and VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin.

**DIRECTOR EMERITA:** Elaine Newman, **EX OFFICIO:** Barbara J. Ratner

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# Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

## Membership Form

womensclearinghouse.org

1. Bring a check, payable to CWI, along with this form to a CWI Meeting or mail to:  
Holly Taggart Joseph, CWI Treasurer  
8504 Rosewood Drive, Bethesda MD 20814-1434  
joseph.holly@gmail.com
2. Or you may also join online using PayPal by going to the membership section of [womensclearinghouse.org](http://womensclearinghouse.org)

For membership questions: Contact VP Membership, Linda Fihelly, [lfihelly@hotmail.com](mailto:lfihelly@hotmail.com) or 301-599-1942

NAME of Individual or Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
For Organizations also Provide Name and emails of two PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVES  
NAME/Title \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME (Org. Representative 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL (Org. representative 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL (Org. representative 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
WEBSITE ADDRESS: (URL)\* \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for CWI membership. Membership year is: **July 1-June 30** (Please fill in beginning and end date). If you pay before July 1 your membership year will start early but still end June 30 of the next year.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Individual**    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 for one year    \_\_\_\_\_ \$45 for two years    \_\_\_\_\_ \$65 for three years

\_\_\_\_\_ **Individual under 30 years old** (\$15/one year)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Virtual** (\$20/one year) (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Organization** (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)

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

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

\*If organizational member, indicate if you would like a link to your organization to be listed on CWI's website. (Listing subject to CWI approval) Circle One: \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

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