



January 2020 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to Tuesday, January 28, 2020 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>

Views of Prostitution in the U.S. from the Civil War to Today

While people of all genders and ages can be treated as prostitutes, there are different societal norms and legal restrictions on this behavior for all participants in different countries and across time. CWI Vice-President for Media Relations, **Loretto Gubernatis** will show a short [video](#) and introduce **Sheryl Williams** who just completed a C-SPAN show on prostitution in the civil war to talk about roles of women prostitutes during our civil war.

Sheryl Williams works as an actress, historical reenactor, and amateur historian. She has participated in related civil war you.tube videos by Loretto. Sheryl also has worked on shows for The Discovery Channel and C-SPAN 3's American History TV, as well as working currently as Co-Producer and Host on Loretto's Anne Arundel County Public Access TV show, "The Time Capsule", which focuses on historical reenactors and the events they present and attend. Her reenacting portrayals and time periods include Hester Schuyler of the American Revolution; a World War II Ground Forces Army Nurse; A Vietnam Era in-country Nurse; and a prostitute of the American Civil War Era. The latter portrayal is Sheryl's specialty, and she has presented and interpreted the life of a Victorian prostitute at Civil War Battle Reenactments in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; Cedar Creek, Virginia; and at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park. Sheryl also has a profound interest in historical fashion and costuming and has designed and created much of her own historical wardrobe. She is a Baltimorean and has a Bachelor's degree in Communication from Goucher College. Sheryl's talk will be on ***The tale of soiled doves and public women: prostitution during the civil war.***

Legal issues relating to prostitution in the US today from feminist perspectives. Although there is much more recognition of the range of participants engaged in prostitution today than during our civil war, most of the discussion will relate to the most common form, prostitution of women by men.

Toni Van Pelt, a longtime feminist and secular humanist activist was elected president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 2017. She is also president of the NOW Foundation and chair of the NOW Political Action Committee. She serves as the principal spokeswoman for all three entities. Her NOW activism started with Florida NOW in 1989 and she served as Southeast Regional NOW Director from 2010-2014. She is co-founder for the Institute for Science and Human Values and former vice president of the Center for Inquiry. Her past career as the owner of a travel agency, International Travel Associates, Inc. gave her the opportunity to expand her worldview through global travel.

Toni will speak about NOW's [End the Demand](#) campaign in which the grassroots membership [calls for support of Nordic or Equality Model legislation](#), successfully adopted by Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, France, Israel and Canada. Under the [Equality Model](#) the demand for sex acts is fully criminalized, but prostituted women are decriminalized, their records are expunged and they are offered much-needed and much-desired supportive services.

CWI meetings are free and open to the public. Bring your own lunch. An RSVP to attend is required. RSVP to media@womensclearinghouse.org. Next CWI Meeting, Noon Tuesday, February 25, 2020 on "Moving Beyond Gender Bias in Electing Feminist Candidates."

CWI Meeting Summary, October 22, 2019

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, led by **Megan Corrado**, CWI VP for Global Issues, focused 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.



Wendy Schaetzel Lesko, founder of [Youth Activism Project](#), School Girls Unite, author, activist, and a leader of the movement to mobilize U.S. support for the International Day of the Girl kicked off the meeting by providing the background context of the campaign, which was inspired by girl activists in Canada. School Girls Unite, the international component of the Youth Activism Project, led this national campaign. Seventh to twelfth graders with School Girls Unite won with endorsement of 75 organizations with strategic guidance from feminist leaders such as CWI's Co-President Connie Cordovilla. Despite initial resistance from the Administration, the girls persisted and the UN voted to establish this annual global girls' rights day in December 2011. School Girls Unite collaborated with Girls Inc. and other organizations that got 50 city councils and 5 governors to pass their own proclamations focused on specific gender equality issues. It took another year for the first presidential proclamation despite the 2013 government shutdown because School Girls Unite activists never gave up. And today, Anika Manzoor, one of the original girls that participated in the campaign—

and one who initially resisted the idea—at 28 and a Harvard graduate, is now the Executive Director of Youth Activism Project.

See the Wendy Lesko video presentation (9 minutes, 34 seconds) <https://youtu.be/1sLOLNRRdAY> and links to websites and resources - <http://www.dayofthegirl.org/> [YOUTH ACTivism Guide to Change](#) - <https://youth-activism-project.teachable.com/courses/social-change/lectures/8944544>

Lara S. Kaufmann, Director of Public Policy for [Girls Inc.](#), then discussed opportunities to advance girls' rights and opportunities and empower girls to advocate for social change. She provided an overview of Girls Inc., which serves girls ages 5-18 at more than 1,500 sites in 350 cities across the U.S. and Canada to help girls realize their full potential. Over 75% of the girls served are those of color, the most of whom are from families making less than \$30,000 each year. Lara identified the intersectional challenges girls face, particularly girls of color, those that identify as LGBTQI+, those with disabilities, immigrant families, and of lower socioeconomic status. Ms. Kaufmann directs [#GirlsToo](#), the Girls Inc. national public awareness and advocacy campaign to prevent and address sexual harassment and sexual violence among youth. Based on a widespread survey, girls identified bullying, sexual harassment, and sexual violence as their top concerns. Girls Inc. is now working to create pathways of engagement, various opportunities for youth to get involved and lead. In particular, they are working to combat bullying, harassment, and violence; promote access to education and economic independence; support girls' mental health; and advance reproductive health.



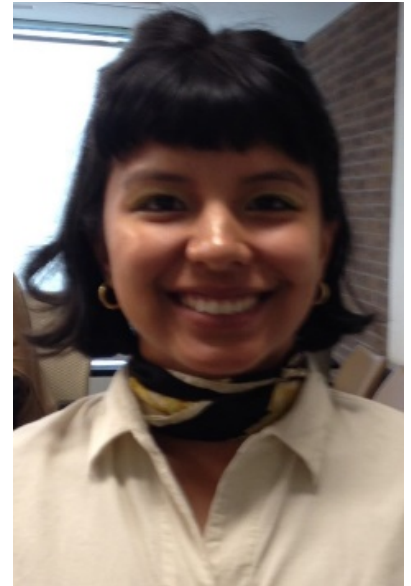
See the video presentation: [Lara Kaufmann \(21 minutes, 45 seconds\)](#) https://youtu.be/zX8j54cfB_8 and websites - <https://girlstoo.girlsinc.org/> <https://girlstoo.girlsinc.org/>



Kimberly Hayes Pollard, President & CEO of We Strategies, LLC and U.S. Consultant for Women's Initiatives that Strengthen and Empower (WISE Zambia), discussed the organization's mission to empower and create economic independence for vulnerable women and girls through education, vocation, and agriculture. The organization officially became a 501(c)(3) in 2005 to provide support to the women and children of Kaoma, a rural village in the Western Province of Zambia. The organization has since expanded its efforts to break the cycle of poverty for women and girls through scholarships, agricultural programs, animal husbandry, and other economic empowerment initiatives. In 2013, WISE Zambia began providing 20 secondary school scholarships. Parents were often

resistant to allowing children, especially girls, to leave the home. Opening up the scholarships to both boys and girls created more acceptance amongst the community. In 2019, WISE Zambia provided 200 scholarships, 133 of which were granted to girls, and expanded its reach to several districts in the Western Province. Each scholarship is granted with the expectation that it will support the awarded student for nine years — four years of high school, a required gap year, and up to four years of college or vocational school. Today, 20 recipients are currently enrolled in college. Many of the students have gone into education and have come back to their communities to empower the next generation. See the presentation by Kimberly Hayes Pollard (11 minutes, 33 seconds) <https://youtu.be/IAAnoqnRHq8> and websites – <https://www.wisezambia.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/wisezambia.org>

Isabelle Orozco shared information on a related project of the Women's Program Office of the American Psychological Association. Their [I am Psyched!](#) Exhibit features women change makers of color who have contributed to psychology. This exhibit now includes information on 25 women and travels to colleges, libraries, conferences, etc. See this (4 minute, 30 second) video presentation <https://youtu.be/YoqzAvqliOk>



During the question and answer session, the panelists ruminated on the ways in which women's organizations can work to highlight issues specifically related to girls. The panelists stressed the need to talk about girls' rights whenever discussing women's rights. They also mentioned the importance of women and women's organizations to serve as allies and mentors to girls, and to mobilize advocacy and programming at the national, state, and local level to address diverse needs. The panelists called on women's rights activists to ensure that girls have a seat at the table and to ensure that their voices are amplified, particularly in light of the current suboptimal state of intergenerational interaction.

Coming DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter 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 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

Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. npg.si.edu (Check on continued availability.)

Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote, National Archives, 10 AM-5:30 PM. Archives.gov/women
#BecauseOfHerStory or Americanhistory.si.edu. (Check to see if still available.)

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

Events

Wednesday, January 8, 2020, ERA Rally outside the Capitol in Richmond, VA to urge final votes for ERA in VA legislature. Vigils start January 9. [Sign up for buses and VA events.](#)

Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 1:30 PM ET, Lead! Organizing skills for grassroots advocates webinar: "A Snapshot of Abortion Rights and Access on the 47th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade." National Council of Jewish Women [Register](#)

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 3rd Women's March in Washington, DC, 10 AM to 1 PM (and many other locations.) More information at WomensMarch.com

Sunday, January 26, 2020 Maryland Women's Legislative Briefing, 11:30 AM-6 PM, Montgomery County Commission for Women and other Co-sponsors. The Universities at Shady Grove, Building II 9630 Gudelsky Dr., Rockville, Md 20850. Regular Registration \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door. [Registration.](#)

Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 12 Noon. CWI meeting on "Views of Prostitution in the U.S. from the Civil War to Today". See page 1 for details. [RSVP to: Media@womensclearinghouse.org](mailto:Media@womensclearinghouse.org)

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 12 Noon. CWI meeting "Moving Beyond Gender Bias in Electing Feminist Candidates." [RSVP to: Media@womensclearinghouse.org](mailto:Media@womensclearinghouse.org)

Thursday, March 19, 2020, 4 PM Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Ceremony to be held in the President's Conference Room East I and II, in the Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland. Maryland Commission for Women. (Note: NASA Goddard Space Flight Scientist, Dr. Claire Parkinson, nominated by Loretto Gubernatis is one of the inductees!)

Saturday, March 28, 2020. Valiant Women of the Vote, Honoree Luncheon, Washington DC. Nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org

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

Meeting summary by Megan Corrado and Presenters. Photos by Sherry Klein and others.

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,

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Membership Form

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

The CWI membership year is **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in the end year (e.g. 2020-2023 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: 2020 - 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.

Form Rev. 1-07-20



March 2020 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Postponement of Tuesday, March 24, 2020 CWI Meeting, Noon-1:30 PM to April 28, 2020 noon if Covid 19 threat is sufficiently mitigated by then.

Place: 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. Go to <https://womensclearinghouse.org/rsvp>

Getting ERA in the U.S. Constitution

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. First introduced by Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman in 1923, it seeks to end the legal distinctions between men and women in matters of divorce, property, employment, and other issues. The recent passage of the ERA in Virginia made it the 38th state to ratify and achieved the threshold of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the American states required to add an amendment to the Constitution. While our hearts were buoyed by this long awaited step, the battle may not be over yet.

We have invited three activists to talk about the background, support, and final steps to enshrine the ERA in the US constitution:

Bettina Hager, the DC Director of the ERA Coalition and Fund for Women's Equality, has extensive background in preparing advocacy materials and training lobbyists on the issues of constitutional equality. Bettina will provide the background of the ERA and the ERA Coalition's work that has moved it forward to be placed in the Constitution in the United States. She will explain the three-state ratification strategy legislation sponsored by Sen. Cardin in April, 2014 and how it has gotten us to this point.

We are hopeful that a Delta Sigma Theta Sorority representative will speak about their critical support role in the ERA passage in Virginia. The Deltas- noted for their bright red suits and community engagement works – are an organization of college educated women committed to the constructive development of its members and to public service with a primary focus on the Black community. An integral part in the passage of the 19th amendment which gave all women the right to vote, they have thrown their influence and energy in characteristic fashion to support the Equal Rights Amendment, particularly in VA.

Ellie Smeal, current president of Feminist Majority and past president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), has fought on the frontlines for women's equality for more than three decades. In the 1970s, as president of the NOW, she spearheaded the drive to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, the largest nationwide grassroots and lobbying campaign in the history of the modern women's movement. Smeal also pioneered the use of the Internet as a feminist organizing and research tool by launching the Feminist Majority Foundation Online in 1995. Always the organizer and practical realist, she will speak about the steps that need to be covered to get the ERA finally placed in the US Constitution in the United States.

CWI meetings are free and open to the public. Bring your own lunch. An RSVP to attend is required. RSVP to womensclearinghouse.org/rsvp. Next possible CWI meeting. Noon Tue. May 26, 2020

CWI Meeting Summary, February 25, 2020

Does Gender Matter in Elections?

On Tuesday, February 25th the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues hosted the meeting, "Does Gender Matter in Elections?" exploring the way gender and race affect our political landscape in our voting demographics and preferences, candidate nomination and selection, and elected officials.



CWI first heard a presentation from **Elyse Shaw** who directs the [Institute for Women's Policy Research](#) (IWPR)'s projects on the Status of Women in the United States, women's political participation, and those related to women and girls of color, which examines the intersectional nature of race and gender on women's lives. Within the framework of IWPR's data collection interviewing female politicians and candidates, Elyse highlighted the gaps and barriers for women entering the political field and staying to win. One of the primary barriers identified is the centrality of money in politics and that, commonly, women feel too daunted by the high demands of fundraising to enter and/or stay in politics. One component of the challenges women face in fundraising for office is simply a feeling that they lack the correct skillset to make the initial ask for donations, but that respondents reported this fear could be greatly diminished if they were provided with a fundraising training opportunity. Elyse's data also found that fundraising is also a central barrier for women because they lack

access to the same established and reliable call lists that male candidates have. Inter-connectedly, female candidates are less likely to have established relationships and support from power brokers, party leaders, and major donors. This also inhibits their ability not just to fundraise, but to be recruited for seats, receive party support, and garner name recognition.

Another key barrier women identified while running for office is what Elyse describes as the overt discrimination of "campaigning while female." This is characterized by inappropriate and sexist treatment from media, donors, and colleagues, and even sexual harassment or violence. This often comes in the form of comments or criticism about the candidates' aesthetic appearances or a double standard surrounding their familial obligations.

A critical finding of Elyse's presentation was to disprove the common rhetoric that women are less likely to run for office because they lack the ambition of men. Among those interviewed by IWPR, ambition was not a determinate issue in their likelihood to run for office. Rather, women found themselves deciding to run because they wanted to respond to a specific problem in their local community.

Moving forward, Elyse identified key steps to tackle these systemic issues barring women and especially women of color from achieving political office. First, Elyse called on all of us to work towards an all-out effort to develop a more powerful political pipeline for female candidates. This requires more intentional efforts to train young women, map out races farther in advance, increased mentorship and sponsorship, a stronger donor-base supporting female candidates. Elyse also called on political parties to place more intentionality and effort into endorsing and recruiting female candidates. Finally, Elyse proposed more systemic reforms that will help uplift women in politics. Anti-discrimination laws and further expansion of campaign finance reform along with policies making campaign work more family-friendly are such examples. Her presentation also discussed the way ranked-choice-voting has shown to increase female electoral success.



Our next speaker was **Janice Mathis**, Executive Director of the [National Council for Negro Women](#). Janice has broad-based experience as a lawyer, negotiator, advocate, administrator and team builder. Janice presented on the role of intersectionality in electoral politics and the way women of color, and different sectors within this demographic, are represented in campaigns and public office. Janice critically pointed out that the representation of not just women, but women of color in Congress have surged in 2016 - with particularly strong representation among black women. In local elections too, the number of women, and women of color, holding elected office has increased at the local level. This is valuable not just in the growth of the sheer numbers, but also the positions of power these women are representing. Specifically, there has been notable growth in the women of color that serve as mayors across the country- generating large impact.

This growth, Janice posits, might be a reaction to the outcome of the 2016 election and outrage in the role white women played in electing Trump. Furthermore, the particular harm this administration has done to women of color has spurred motivation for women of color to act on behalf of their communities by running for office. This, Janice reported, is also working in combination with the inspiration that the Obama administration provided, raising the ceiling of what is possible for people of color interested in politics. Furthermore, Janice argued that this rise is not just a result of the urgency of the present but also the weight of the past. Throughout history in both feminist movements and civil rights movements, women of color have been pushed out. Now, Janice says, women of color are insisting that it has been too long they have been in the backseat. Lastly, Janice argues that the growth of women of color in elected office is due in part to nonprofit fatigue. While there are many notable nonprofit groups initiated and led by women of color, the way these groups can be so easily muffled has served as an impetus for women to want to be the decision-makers, and instead are running themselves.



Our final speaker of the day was **Monique Alcala**, Chief Operating Officer at [Rock the Vote](#), a nonprofit advocacy organization using the power of art, music, technology and pop culture to engage young people in politics. Her area of expertise is on race/ethnicity, inequality, and political participation. Monique also has particular expertise having previously worked in a variety of campaigns. In her discussion, Monique also highlighted the success of the increased participation of women and women of color, but also the continued challenges this population faces when running for office and possible solutions to overcome them. As also mentioned by Elyse, Monique pinpointed fundraising as a key challenge for women of color candidates. As the political system currently exists, Monique explained, donors are largely older white men with limited geographic distribution. These donors, too hold exorbitant power in the recruitment and election process, often being the ones determining the thresholds of what it means to be “electable” or “viable” for a particular seat. These biased terms are particularly harmful

when trying to support female candidates of color. In fundraising especially, female candidates of color have to meet much higher fundraising thresholds and expectations in a network they weren’t raised in order to be considered viable. Even outside the candidates themselves, there is a financial and information bias that is harmful to women of color that affect electoral change. Nonprofits run by women and people of color receive less funding and support, in particular among civically oriented nonprofits and 501 C4s. Young women and people of color are also a large proportion of the non-voting population, meaning their votes are often fought less hard for amongst candidates and in turn, they are further silenced by the political process.

Similarly to Elyse, one solution Monique puts forward is the development of a stronger political pipeline. This involves creating more and better sponsors and advocates for women of color in the political sphere. Monique also emphasized that in order for women of color to be more represented they need more support and this requires those in the network of privilege to call out this privilege when it occurs. Politics, she argues, is too often incorrectly seen as a zero-sum game where those too strongly fear they will lose power if they help open the door for others who have been systemically oppressed. Reversing this involves making smarter policy thinking about those who aren’t represented. Further, it involves the entire political electorate re-evaluating what it truly means to be “electable” or “viable.”

Following the three panelists’ presentations was a discussion inspired by their data, experiences, and observations. Such topics that were debated included the ways in which race and gender are differently prioritized and challenged in elections, and how this overlap affects the strategies and struggles of female candidates of color as well as how race and gender inform assumed beliefs in a candidate or officeholder’s policy priorities and preferences, even when there isn’t data supporting it.

Key statistics highlighted by this meeting’s speakers:

- 126 women serve in the 116th congress
- 47, or 37.3% are women of color, outperforming their representation
 - In addition, a black woman, Latina, an Asian Pacific Islander, and a Caribbean American woman serve as delegates to the house from DC, PR, Samoa, and VI. Women of color constitute 8.8% of the 535 members of congress
- At this rate of representation, women will not reach parity in Congress until 2108

Videos of the meeting will be available on our website: <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Coming DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

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

EXHIBITS

Check out [Washington.org/suffrage](https://www.washington.org/suffrage) and [#suffrage100DC](https://twitter.com/suffrage100DC) *note both the National Archives and the Library of Congress exhibits have been criticized for not showing the full feminist fury against the election of President Trump in photos of the January 2017 Women's March on Washington and around the globe when Hillary Clinton won the popular vote.

Also check out Women Fight for the Vote, Federal Government Events: <https://womenhistorymonth.gov>

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](https://loc.gov/suffrage)

Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote, National Archives, 10 AM-5:30 PM. [Archives.gov/women](https://www.archives.gov/women)

National Museum of American History Marks 2020 as "Year of the Woman" and "Creating Icons: How We Remember Women's Suffrage" March 6, 2020 to March 2021. [https://Americanhistory.si.edu](https://americanhistory.si.edu).

The Exchange, Dumbarton House to April 2021 in Georgetown. [DumbartonHouse.org](https://dumbartonhouse.org)

Ordinary Equality: DAR Members and the Road to Women's Suffrage, 1890-1920 to April 2021. [Dar.org](https://dar.org)

The Rights of Women and the Legacy of the American Revolution, [American revolutioninstitute.org](https://americanrevolutioninstitute.org)

Special tour, Votes for Women. The Capitol Visitor Center, 1 PM Monday through Saturday, (45 minutes). Meet at Statue of Freedom. visitthecapitol.gov/event-calendar

EVENTS

Sunday March 15, 2020 Deadline to apply for the Women's Media Center's Progressive Women's Voices media and leadership training program in May in Washington, DC. [Application form](https://www.womensmediacenter.com/application-form). Send questions to Kate@womensmediacenter.com.

Tuesday, March 17, 1PM "DC Politics Hour with Former DC Mayor Sharon Pratt". Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Lunch served at 12:15 PM. [Register](https://www.wndc.org/register) or call 202-232-7363.

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30-8:30 PM, Women's History Month Celebration, Montgomery Co. Business and Professional Women. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. [For more Info](https://www.bpw.org/for-more-info).

Thursday, March 19, 2020, 4 PM Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Ceremony to be held in the President's Conference Room East I and II, in the Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland. Maryland Commission for Women. (Note: NASA Goddard Space Flight Scientist, Dr. Claire Parkinson, nominated by Loretto Gubernatis is one of the inductees. Previous Gender Equity Educator, Leslie Wolfe is another!)

Friday, March 20, 2020, 7:30 PM Word Dance Theater to celebrate suffragist movement. Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20036. [Register](#) or call 202-232-7363.T

~~**Saturday, March 28, 2020. Valiant Women of the Vote,**~~ Honoree Luncheon, Washington DC. Nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org. Tentatively Postponed to Aug. 22,2020 due to Covid 19.

Tuesday, March 31, 6 PM. Sex, Racism, and Women's Suffrage: A Story of Two Amendments. . Woman's National Democratic Club, 1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20036. [Register](#) or call 202-232-7363.

Tuesday, April 28 Noon tentative CWI Meeting on Getting ERA into the US Constitution. Check <https://womensclearinghouse.org>.

Thursday and Friday May 14 and 15. 5 PM Symposium: 100 Years of Women's Suffrage, Library of Congress, Kluge Center. [For more information.](#)

Friday June 5-Sunday June 7, 2020, Joint National NOW and Feminist Majority Conference: "Fired Up and Ready to Vote" Capital Hilton, Washington, DC, [Register](#)

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

Thanks to National Organization for Women interns (NOW) Jailyn Seabrook and Maia Brockbank for the 2-25 -20 Meeting Summary. 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; 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

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

The CWI membership year is **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in the end year (e.g. 2020-2023 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: 2020 - 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.

Form Rev. 1-16-20



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI)

June 2020 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to Thursday, June 25, 2020 CWI Zoom Meeting, Noon-1:30 PM

You must register in advance for this meeting – go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUvdeivqTMrHNT09ohZ8iP213gkS1yNvKss>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Annual Elections Meeting Featuring How CWI Member Organizations are Changing with the Covid-19 Pandemic

CWI plays an important role in fostering collaboration among organizations supporting a wide variety of feminist issues. We are finding that we can do this effectively during this Covid 19 pandemic. This June meeting focuses on recruiting new member organizations to join us in making a powerful effective collective impact to obtain increased support for multiple goals such as getting the ERA in the U.S. Constitution and creating a gender equitable U.S. foreign policy. The importance of the November 2020 U.S. elections in accomplishing these goals is vital.

CWI, a 46 year old non profit composed of organizational and individual members, has focused on working with other non profit organizations with a feminist presence in the Washington, DC area but as we are now operating virtually we realize that we can serve all the nation. The purpose of this meeting is to obtain ideas and advice from current and prospective CWI organizational members on how to provide this CWI dissemination and collaborative leadership even more effectively and to address special challenges during the pandemic.

We assume that in this specialized world gender equity advocates and their organizations collaborate in their own silos of expertise. But our issues are overlapping and feminists are willing and interested in supporting multiple issues outside their regular purview. However they often need to learn more about these issues and to use strategies to deliberately provide their organizational and individual support.

CWI often provides an opportunity for our organizational members to describe their focus at the June Meetings. This June 25 we will prioritize this benefit for new CWI organizational members. We will also feature the **We Demand More Coalition** which was formed to monitor and influence how legislation and policies are addressing the needs of women and families related to the Covid -19 Pandemic and beyond.

Advantages of being a CWI individual or organizational member include:

- Opportunities to learn about critical feminist issues in areas outside your expertise via CWI monthly meetings, newsletters, and meeting videos.
- Member organizations can learn about each other's work by CWI facilitated sharing of meeting announcements, resources, presenting at CWI meetings, signing on to each other's letters and more.

Organizational members are also encouraged to share CWI disseminated information with their own members. More specifically, organizational members will have their organization's URL listed on the CWI website, be entitled to have 2 members on the CWI member email list, serve on the all volunteer CWI Board of directors and help plan and sponsor CWI meetings in their focus areas where they can improve feminists' technical and advocacy capacity. See last page for membership information. Multiple year discounts include a three-year organizational membership for only \$100. Gift memberships are also encouraged.

Dear Current and Potential CWI members,

Now is the time for CWI elections, membership renewals and sign ups, and an opportunity to preserve your own contributions to history!

We also want to share our concerns with you about the great needs to improve our government from fighting the Covid -19 pandemic to ending police brutality and discrimination against people of color and other targeted groups. One of the advantages of working in coalition is to sign on to letters of support. CWI was one of the 400 organizations that signed on to the June 1, 2020 [letter](#) on Federal Policing Priorities organized by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on specific ways to stop police brutality and promote criminal justice reform. Be sure to read this important letter.

Elections

CWI Board Members and Officers serve 2 year terms The slate for the 2020-22 terms is:

TREASURER: Holly Taggart Joseph

SECRETARY: Megan E. Corrado

VICE PRESIDENT MEDIA RELATIONS: Loretto Gubernatis

VICE PRESIDENT LEGAL AFFAIRS: Jeanette Lim Esbrook

Continuing Board Members serving terms 2019-21 are:

CO-PRESIDENTS: Connie Cordovilla and Sue Klein

VICE-PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP: Harriett Stonehill

VICE-PRESIDENT DIVERSITY: Alotta Taylor

VICE-PRESIDENT ORGANIZATIONAL MANGEMENT: Anne Martin

VICE PRESIDENT TECHNOLOGY: Sherry Klein

BOARD MEMBER: Linda Fihelly

CWI is looking for additional Board Members so please contact Connie or Sue if you are interested in serving in our wonderful volunteer organization.

CWI Membership

CWI operates as voluntary organization but does have a few expenses. Thus, we need to charge members modest dues. CWI membership year is July 1 to June 30. We need to remind you to renew your membership this July. We encourage you to renew or sign up for multiple year memberships at a discounted rate. See last page of this newsletter for membership information. Multiple year discounts include a three-year organizational membership for only \$100. Gift memberships are also encouraged.

Preserving Your Contributions to History

Take advantage of the stay at home pandemic defense time and record your contributions to feminist history. There are various ways to record your contributions to feminist history. This was the topic of our March 26, 2019 CWI Meeting on "Ways to Share Our Feminist History: Stories, Videos, Artifacts, Documents" available on CWI meeting videos on our web page and summarized in the April 2019 CWI Newsletter.

In addition to these resources, CWI's Vice President Media Relations, Loretto Gubernatis has been doing productions of oral histories through HerStory. They are available on The Maryland Women's Heritage Center website <https://mdwomensheritagecenter.org/her-story/> .

In addition to summaries in [the CWI newsletters](#) videos of most of the meetings are available by going to the [youtube icon](#) at the bottom of most of the CWI <https://womensclearinghouse.org> web pages.

CWI Program Summary, May 26, 2020 Zoom Meeting

Getting ERA in the U.S. Constitution

Originally CWI planned to have this meeting on ERA to celebrate Women's History in our March Women's History Meeting. This was also timed to celebrate the January victory of the passage of the ERA in Virginia, making it the 38 and final state needed to ratify the Constitution. However, our March and April 2020 meetings were cancelled due to Covid 19 pandemic and we had a much larger ERA meeting over Zoom May 26. Sixty five (65) participants signed in and over 100 registered.



The meeting was organized and moderated by CWI Co-President, **Connie Cordovilla** who also serves as the Virginia NOW President and was instrumental in the election and ERA victories in Virginia.

Connie introduced the Zoom meeting by saying, "The Equal Rights Amendment or ERA has been a movement to insure equal rights for women under the constitution since the First Women's Rights Convention in 1848. Over the past 172 years, there has been a constant struggle to instill the words that would make women and men equal in the US Constitution. From the state by state struggle to get the required passage through the imposition of deadlines to the final ratification in the VA Assembly in January 2020, there has been a fierce tug of war between those who clearly see the need to raise the legal standard of women to that of men vs the people who believe it is covered under other constitutional areas or actually diminishes rights. Regardless, enshrining what would seem like a very logical piece of civil rights in the constitution is a struggle that we are going to hear about today

Our speakers today come from the ranks of the most active of activists for the ERA. They include:

Bettina Hager who is the DC Director of the ERA Coalition and Fund for Women's Equality. Bettina has conducted focused lobby training workshops on the issue of Constitutional equality and oversaw the creation of a widely used ERA advocacy packet with information on how to contact elected officials, reach out to media and encourage constituency outreach. Bettina previously worked as Programs Director and Interim Executive Director at the National Women's Political Caucus and in various levels of government.



Kim Cummings and **Anna Bradley** are leading members of the **VA Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority**. They will speak about the Delta's critical support role in the Virginia ERA passage. The Deltas are an organization of college educated women committed to the constructive development of its members and to public service with a primary focus on the Black community. Deltas played an integral part in the earlier passage of the 19th amendment which gave all women the right to vote. They have thrown their influence and energy in that same characteristic fashion to ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Kim Cummings is a retired educator of 36 years. She is a member of the Fredericksburg Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the Virginia Social Action Task Force of Delta, the Stafford NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and the Senior Vice Chair of the Stafford Committee. Anna Bradley is the Social Action Chair of the Petersburg, VA Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Their passion for social justice is evident, covers a wide range and is unapologetic. Their mission and resolve are simple - to see their community empowered (and) to use its voice to speak truth to power."

The final presenter was **Eleanor Smeal**, one of the major leaders of the modern-day American feminist movement. She is the president and a cofounder of the Feminist Majority Foundation (founded in 1987) and has served as president of the National Organization for Women for three terms where she led the fight for ERA. In addition to her work as an activist, grassroots organizer, lobbyist, and political analyst, she is publisher of Ms. Magazine. She spoke about the steps that need to be covered to get the ERA finally placed in the US Constitution.

Highlights from the presenters:

Bettina Hager started with a review of the Congressional introduction of the ERA by Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman in 1923. She described the recent ratification of the 1787 Madison Amendment on Congressional pay which was approved over 100 years later. It has implications for ERA since a key argument that the current Attorney General is using to try to block the Archives certification of VA as the 38 and final state to approve ERA is because of the time limit in the preamble clause. Bettina pointed out that this late approval of the Madison Amendment gave new energy to ERA supporters such as CWI's Holly Joseph who got her Maryland Senator Cardin to sponsor a Resolution to pass the ERA when 3 more states ratified. Nevada ratified in 2017, Illinois in 2018 and Virginia in Jan. 2020. Bettina pointed out that the House of Representatives passed a resolution Feb 13, 2020 to approve the ERA without any deadline limitations. A similar resolution by MD Senator Cardin and Alaska Senator Murkowski is blocked in the Senate by Mitch McConnell.

Kim Cummings (far right of Rep Val Demings) and **Anna Bradley** (far left) are VA Delta Sigma Theta leaders. Kim noted that her Fredericksburg chapter, covering a four county area, was involved from the start with the suffrage centennial work. Joining with the VA Ratify ERA movement was a logical step. Her groups cohosted a showing of "Iron Jawed Angels", brought the ERA bus tour to her hometown and worked at handing out flyers, buttons, and signs to grow support for the ERA passage. Anna noted that unlike the beginning of the women's suffrage movement in the late 1800s and early parts of the 20th century, VA RATIFY ERA was quick to invite diversity into the coalition. By building on having every portion of the citizenry represented, it gave real meaning to the idea of equality. At every VA Assembly vote, there were dozens of proud African American women in their distinctive red suits and dresses, holding up signs and lobbying VA lawmakers to pass the ERA. That is the legacy of equality that the "Deltas" leave in every community. Their current focus is on ensuring a complete and accurate Census and Voter Engagement (education, registration, and mobilization).



Eleanor Smeal provided some important details and pointed to what needs to happen next to get ERA in the Constitution. The ERA has been introduced in all US Congresses after the initial Congressional passage in 1972 where it was supported by 485 groups. The major opponents are Chambers of Commerce and insurance companies who were profiting by paying women less and charging them more than men. Public approval of ERA remains high (80% or 90%). The passage in Nevada was due to elected women's leadership and to the moderate Republicans and Democrats who took over the majority woman state legislature. Illinois experienced similar legislative changes and ERA passage benefitted from the leadership of a pro ERA male republican governor. VA ratification came after the election of democrats who now lead both houses with diverse women in the leadership positions. The U.S. Department of Justice is attempting to block the ERA certification. In response a lawsuit by state Attorney Generals in VA, NV and IL has been brought to push the entry of this 28th amendment into the US Constitution. ERA's 38 state ratification can also be decided by Congress, which makes the Nov. 2020 elections additionally important. It would also help to get more states

to ratify ERA and place it in their own state constitutions. It is well established that states can't rescind their approval of amendments even though some have tried to do this for ERA and even the 14th Equal Protection Amendment. Since provisions in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) prohibit sex discrimination, ERA supporters have another reason to vote for support of ACA. Groups fighting for ERA should work together and amplify each other's messages. ERA would also help with equal pay, with the understanding that equal pay should include equal benefits as well.

To learn much more from this meeting including the Q&As from participants around the US please check our recording at the [youtube icon](#) at the bottom of most CWI <https://womensclearinghouse.org> web pages.

Coming DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

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

Job Announcement: Director of the Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative. Deadline 6-24-20
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/569367200>

Exhibits: Check out Washington.org/suffrage Check to see if these exhibits have reopened after Covid closure. Here are some examples:

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. Through Sept. 2020.

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

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

Programs

Wednesday June 10, 2020 4PM EDT. Women Rule Virtual Interview book on Hillary Rodham. Politico. [Register](#)

Thursday, June 11, 2020. 4PM EDT, Webinar To Fulfill These Rights: A Conversation on Education and Equity with Dr. Amaka Okechukwu. American Association of University Women. [Register](#)

Friday, June 12, 2020, 11 AM EDT , Webinar: Film screening: It's Up to Us, Women's Learning Partnership. [Register](#)

Thursday, July 23, 2020, 11:30 AM -1:30 PM Passing the Torch Passage of the 19th Amendment. Anna Laymon, Exec Director Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission. Sponsored by Federally Employed Women. Register at www.FEW.org

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

Meeting summary by Sue Klein, Connie Cordovilla and Other Presenters.

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, Vacant, 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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700 Seventh St. SW, Suite 3, Washington, DC 20024 Tel. 202/438-5655



Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

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womensclearinghouse.org

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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

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Membership Years Covered: 2020 - 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.

Form Rev. 1-16-20



September 2020 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, September 22 , 2020 (12:00-1:30 PM Eastern)

You must register in advance for this meeting – go to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMod-mpqDltE9Hz5sLrdCmc_0BcvU7vOf-3

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Get Out the Vote Strategies to Promote High and Diverse Voter Turnout

During the June 2020 meeting of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues (CWI), Karen Mulhauser discussed the critical work of her new organization, [Every Women Vote 2020](#), as well as the current and historical challenges women face casting their ballots this year. With the upcoming most important federal election of our lifetime, CWI aims to continue the conversation led by Board Member, Megan Corrado to explore in further detail how we as organizations and individuals can mobilize to increase voter turnout amongst women and marginalized communities.

Please join CWI and a distinguished panel, to explore strategies to increase voter registration and ensure the voices of all Americans, particularly those from communities that have the most at-stake in November. The discussion will highlight the legal, economic, practical, and—now, in light of COVID-19—health barriers their communities are facing in exercising their right to vote, as well as lessons learned from previous mobilization efforts, opportunities for others to engage and help increase voter registration and turnout. Confirmed Panelists are:

Eleanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority and Feminist Majority Foundation (www.feministmajority.org and www.feminist.org) and former President of the National Organization for Women, (NOW). She has fought on the frontlines for women's equality for more than five decades. In the 1970s, as President of NOW she spearheaded the drive to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, the largest nationwide grassroots and lobbying campaign in the history of the modern women's movement. Smeal also pioneered the use of the Internet as a feminist organizing and research tool by launching the Feminist Majority Foundation Online in 1995. Today, she is working hard and successfully navigating the unique challenges posed by COVID-19 to ensure the momentum of Feminist Majority Foundation, its 501(c)(4) affiliate Feminist Majority, and Ms. Magazine continues ever forward in the fight for gender equity. Always the organizer and practical realist, she will speak about her team's efforts to mobilize young people through campus outreach in targeted states.

Christine Chen, Executive Director of Asian and Pacific Islander Vote (APIAVote). APAI focuses its research and action on Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. It provides regional training and field programs to enhance local grassroots efforts to mobilize these constituencies for the 2020 census as well as elections. Ms. Chen serves as the President of Strategic Alliances USA, a consulting firm specializing in coalition-building, institutional development, and partnerships amongst the corporate sector, government agencies, and the non-profit and public sectors. She has more than two decades of experience in organizing and advocating on issues such as immigration, hate crimes, affirmative action, census, racial profiling, voting rights, election reform. Chen serves on the Steering Committee for National Voter Registration Day, Kennedy Center Community Advisory Board, and the board for the Center for Asian American Media. Ms. Chen will speak about efforts to enfranchise the Asian American and Pacific Islander voters.

Dear Current and Potential CWI members,

On the June 25, 2020 Annual Meeting CWI members elected the following officers for two year terms July 1, 2020-June 30, 2022 by acclamation.

TREASURER: Holly Taggart Joseph

SECRETARY and VICE PRESIDENT GLOBAL AFFAIRS: Megan E. Corrado

VICE PRESIDENT MEDIA RELATIONS: Loretto Gubernatis

VICE PRESIDENT LEGAL AFFAIRS: Jeanette Lim Esbrook

Continuing Board Members serving terms 2019-21 are:

CO-PRESIDENTS: Connie Cordovilla and Sue Klein

VICE-PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP: Harriett Stonehill

VICE-PRESIDENT DIVERSITY: Alotta Taylor

VICE-PRESIDENT ORGANIZATIONAL MANGEMENT: Anne Martin

VICE PRESIDENT TECHNOLOGY: Sherry Klein

BOARD MEMBER: Linda Fihelly

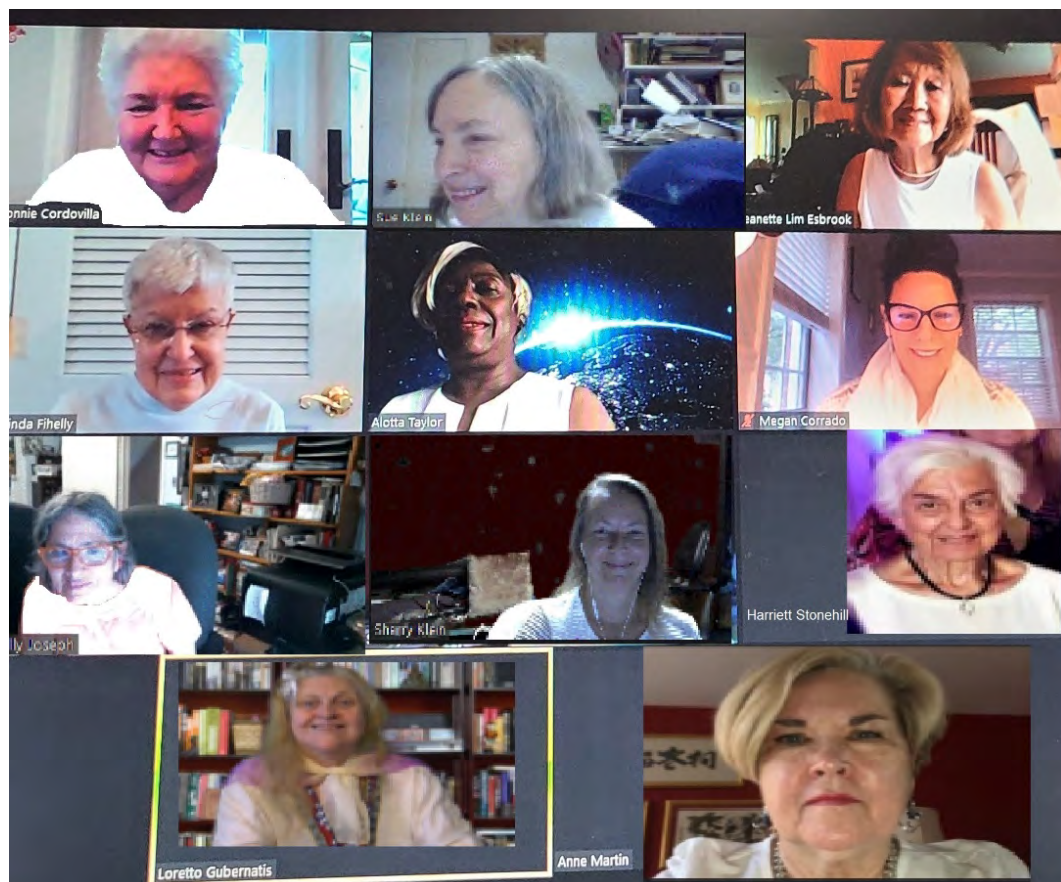
CWI is looking for additional Board Members so please contact Connie or Sue if you are interested in serving in our wonderful volunteer organization.

CWI Membership

CWI operates as voluntary membership organization but does have a few expenses. Thus, we need to charge members modest dues. CWI membership year is July 1 to June 30. We need to remind you to renew your membership for 2020 and beyond if you haven't already done so. We encourage you to renew or sign up for multiple year memberships at a discounted rate. See last page of this newsletter for membership information. Multiple year discounts include a three-year organizational membership for only \$100. Gift memberships are also encouraged. For example, you can give an organizational membership to your favorite organization and serve as one of their 2 representatives instead of joining as an individual member. We anticipate that our regular CWI meetings will continue on zoom for the rest of the membership year and thus encourage feminists from all over the US to join us.

Photo taken from August 25, 2020 CWI Board meeting via Zoom.

We are wearing white to honor the 100th anniversary of the suffrage amendment.



CWI Program Summary: June 25, 2020 Zoom Meeting

Annual Elections Meeting Featuring How CWI Member Organizations are changing with COVID-19, the elections & more

The meeting was organized and moderated by CWI Co-Presidents, **Connie Cordovilla** who also serves as the Virginia NOW President and was instrumental in the election and ERA victories in Virginia and **Sue Klein** who is also the Education Equity Director of the Feminist Majority Foundation.

The meeting began with CWI elections. There were no nominations from the floor, so each person running was unopposed and will assume their respective position.

Today's speakers come from a variety of member organizations, with a focus on coalition building, the women's vote, and Title IX policy – all in the context of COVID-19. After elections, Sue Klein introduced the first speaker, along with all of the other speakers in the following order:

Jenalyn Sotto, the senior manager for strategy and policy at the National Women's Law Center (NWLC). She is an alumna of UC Berkeley and a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. Jenalyn has a long track record of work in civil rights, advancing progressive public policy, institutional equity and inclusion, comprehensive immigration reform, improving mental health access, and building coalitions. In her role at NWLC, she leads the Pathway to Gender Justice Initiative. This initiative goes deep in key early and battleground states to drive a national conversation that will ensure positive change in 2021 for women, girls, and families. The main focus of her talk today was concerning the "We Demand More" letter and campaign, which is a comprehensive feminist response to COVID-19 and its disproportionate effect on women, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, etc.

The next speaker was **Karen Mulhauser**, president of Consulting Women and a leader at Every Woman Vote 2020. She has previously led numerous organizations, including NARAL. Karen primarily works on engaging women in voting through voter outreach of Partner organizations. Because the 22 nonprofit partners are trusted by members, their efforts to register and turn out voters is highly effective.

Next, **Anne Anderson** spoke about the long fight to DC statehood. Anne is a team leader for DC statehood activities at the League of Women Voters in DC and has been working on DC statehood issues since 1971.

The final speaker was **Jeanette Lim Esbrook**, CWI's Vice President Legal Affairs and former Acting Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education. While in OCR, she was one of the first attorneys to work on Title IX sexual harassment issues in the 1980's.

Highlights from the presenters:



Jenalyn Sotto began by explaining the reasons behind the “We Demand More” letter and campaign in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Women, especially women of color, comprise a large share of front-line essential workers and are experiencing the harshest impacts of this crisis. When considering which people and demographics still have to work during this crisis, it is commonly those who already experience a long history of systemic discrimination – Black, brown, and under-paid workers who are primarily women. COVID-19 is widening existing disparities and augmenting the discrimination we face, from access to quality care, the availability of supports that enable women to work and also balance caregiving responsibilities, and, in some cases, racialized violence against Asian and Asian American women.

Though this pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women, especially women of color, there is still a lack of legislative focus on them. For example, the first federal assistance bills created during this crisis failed to account for critical supports like paid leave and left out billions of workers while Boeing got more money than all of the childcare sector combined. Additionally, women are being both left out and attacked – most notably, Governor Gretchen Whitmer experienced a huge and violent backlash to her proactive and successful approach to containing COVID-19 in Michigan. Keeping all these factors in mind, Jenalyn and her colleagues built a coalition to combine policy priorities on this topic, thus creating a unified list of four demands to communicate to politicians. These demands can be found at wedemandmore.org and <https://nwlc.org/resources/women-demand-more-of-congress-to-face-covid-recession/>, and aim to center the focus on women, people of color, survivors, immigrants, LGBTQ+ and gender nonbinary people, etc. – especially given the recent events concerning police brutality. A brief overview of these demands is as follows –

1. Put women and families ahead of corporations, including workplace and critical protections
2. Give relief to women and families now
3. Stabilize state & local governments and the jobs and programs they support
4. Do no harm: relief efforts must center the focus on and uplift most vulnerable populations

In August Jenalyn shared a NWLC fact sheet on “The Impact of COVID on Michigan’s Women of Color Voters” <https://nwlc.org/resources/the-impact-of-covid-on-michigans-women-of-color-voters/> which praised Gov. Whitmer for her COVID leadership but indicated the many ways that women of color needed more help in their various roles



Next, **Karen Mulhauser** spoke briefly about the importance of the women’s vote. Although women vote in higher percentages than men, 53 million women did not vote in 2018. Karen has completed various forms of voter outreach, doing specific events and actions on the anniversaries of suffrage and the Voting Rights Act, in addition to focus groups to further understand what will draw people to voting. On Every Woman Vote 2020’s website (www.everywomanvote2020.org), each of their partners has a “room”, which includes information about their voter outreach, links to websites and tools & suggestions for convening

virtual meetings, links to films about suffrage and the Voting Rights Act. If you know of organizations that would be interested in partnering with or donating to Every Woman Votes 2020, contact Karen at kmulhauser@consultingwomen.com.

The following are Every Woman Vote 2020 partner organizations as of July 1, 2020

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black Women’s Roundtable of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation• Coalition of Labor Union Women• Feminist Majority Foundation• League of Women Voters• Ms. Magazine• National Abortion Federation• National Center for Health Research• National Council of Jewish Women• National Organization for Women Foundation• National Vote at Home Institute• 2020 One Woman One Vote Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our sBodies Ourselves• Project LPAC• Public Allies• Public Leadership Education Network [PLEN]• The Representation Project• Vote Mama Foundation• Vote Run Lead• Western Native Voice
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On the topic of voting, **Anne Anderson** spoke about her work with the League of Women Voters DC (join here: www.lwvdc.org/join). Both the National and DC Leagues of Women Voters are 100 years old, which is a shocking fact given that the DC statehood vote has still not passed the Senate. Moreover, DC residents have only been able to vote for president since 1964. She emphasized that given these facts, DC is a young democracy in the context of the oldest democracy – America. Her work at the League primarily consists of civic engagement, informing people about the League’s work, and using redistricting and power mapping to get DC on the map as a state. She travels around the country talking about DC issues, as most Americans do not know them. Her frustration was evident, as DC residents cannot vote on the issues that are important to them, and DC has become a sort of “petri dish” for social issues and “bargaining chip” for politicians. DC consists of 705,000 residents, pay taxes and still cannot vote. Go to LWVDC.org to see the DC statehood toolkit, along with other online materials. Still, the DC statehood bill (HR 51) passed in the House on June 26, which is a huge step in the right direction. The LWV Video is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters/posts/10158193241412279> .

Anne urged attendees to watch the LWV Expanding the Vote Panel Presentation (June 25): Facebook livestream with Muriel Bowser, Washington, DC, Mayor; Alejandra Y. Castillo, YWCA USA CEO; Valerie B. Jarrett, When We All Vote Board Chair and The United State of Women Co-Chair; and Allison Riggs, Southern Coalition for Social Justice Interim Executive Director & Chief Counsel for Voting Rights Video here:

<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters/posts/10158193241412279>



Jeanette Lim Esbrook, the final speaker, informed those in attendance about the impacts of the new Education Department Title IX regulations focusing on sexual harassment and assault. These regulations were published in May and must be implemented by August 14 – thus giving schools three months to overhaul their grievance procedures, during which they are also planning for reopening during a pandemic. She emphasized the significant changes these regulations make on the Title IX approach, and how they focus on the rights of the accused. They rollback protection policies for complainants and allow for direct cross examination and confrontation between parties. This prioritization of due process for the accused will have a “chilling effect” on those who might come forward with Title IX complaints, especially because the jurisdiction has been further limited. Namely, sexual assault must be within school programs/activities, thus excluding study abroad, off campus, and private locations and events. The act(s) must be severe enough for the student to leave school, which as Jeanette exemplified, would have excluded

Amanda Thomashow, the first complainant against Larry Nassar. Although universities will most likely go above and beyond these regulations, the Department of Education estimates a 30% decrease in complaints filed, which is seen as more of an economic benefit to the school and a detriment to survivors of sexual assault. Still, universities’ decisions to go beyond the new regulations might incur litigation costs that offset this economic benefit – for example, the UC system-wide Title IX Director, Susan Taylor, has stated that the UC system will have two separate grievance procedures. Moreover, K-12 students have less protection as compared to other forms of discrimination (racial, employee, etc.), which indicates a need for adequate training and informing students of this process, along with ensuring policy enforcement.

The Democratic Women's Caucus Virtual Roundtable that discussed these issues can be found here:

<https://speier.house.gov/press-releases?ID=96484C9F-D01A-4C11-8680-EF0201E67AED>

And here: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=2600507916875063&ref=watch_permalink.

Additionally, the National Women's Law Center has been leading the effort against these new regulations and has given suggestions on how Congress can address them.

The September 2, 2020 ED OCR Title IX Regulations are now available in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations. [https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=mm#sent?projector=1, Electronic Code of Federal Regulations \(eCFR\),pdf](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=mm#sent?projector=1,Electronic%20Code%20of%20Federal%20Regulations%20(eCFR).pdf)

A recording of the CWI 6-25-20 zoom meeting is available on the CWI website and at this [youtube address](#).

Coming DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Times are Eastern. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities.

To join the National Women's Political Caucus VA chapter, contact katihornung@gmail.com or jane.newell@comcast.net, or visit NWPC.org/membership.

Maryland Women's History Podcast Releases Second Season

Ballot & Beyond is produced by Preservation Maryland.

Ballot & Beyond is a multi-media public history exhibit and podcast highlighting the work of remarkable Maryland women with a focus on the state's suffragists and activists. More than 55 episodes are available now for streaming and reading on: ballotandbeyond.org.

Tune in to episodes of Ms. magazine podcasts, On the issues with Michele Goodwin on [Podcasts + Spotify](#).

Watch Women's Bureau Tribute to the Rosies. See [video](#) featuring many 90 year old Rosie the Riveters.

Events

Monday, Sept. 14- Tue Sept. 15, 2020. National Advocacy Summit, Americans United for Separation of Church and State. [See Schedule](#). [Register](#)

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 3PM EDT. Fix Our Constitution, Attorneys General discuss case of Virginia v Ferriero to publish the ERA 28th Amendment. Tickets free and distributed by VoteEqualityUS mail list by signing up here [here](#). Sponsored by VAratifyERA.

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2-3:30 PM What You Should Know About Your Retirement Plan Webcast, Women's Bureau, [Register](#).

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 5:30 PM, Zoom Webinar. Women Vote: The Impact Women may have on the 2020 Election, New York Univ, [RSVP](#)

Friday, Sept. 18 11AM -1PM EDT 2020 Women of the Diaspora Virtual Summit. Sponsored by UNFPA and others. Summit website: <https://www.ardm/mgp/wotd2020/>

Thursday, Sept. 24. 2020 at 4- 5 PM EDT. Advanced Womanufacturing STEM Network Meeting-Strategies for recruiting Females into Advanced Manufacturing Pathways sponsored by NAPE [Register](#)

From the Feminist To-Do List, United State of Women 9-4-20

September 14th [Supporting Working Moms through COVID](#) with The Riveter at 10am PDT!

September 15th [Careers & COVID: Tips for Finding a Job and Working Remotely During COVID-19](#) with The Riveter at 1pm PDT!

September 23rd [Youth Leaders Redefining Safety In Our Communities](#) with the President's Youth Council of the California Endowment at 5pm EST!

September 24th-September 26th [Survivors' Summit](#) with the Survivor's Agenda!

September 29th - October 1st [FORTUNE Most Powerful Women Virtual Summit](#) with Fortune Live Media!

October 7th [Stand Up Against Street Harassment](#) with Hollaback!, L'Oréal Paris, and the NYC Commission on Gender Equity at 5pm EST!

*CWI's newsletter is endowed by friends in loving memory of our previous longtime editor, Roslyn Kaiser
Meeting summary by Feminist Majority Foundation Intern, Katarina Watson and the meeting presenters.*

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 and VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado, VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Organizational Management, Alotta Taylor, VP Diversity; 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

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

The CWI membership year is **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in the end year (e.g. 2020-2023 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: 2020 - 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.

Form Rev. 1-07-20



Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday October 27, 2020 (12:00-1:30 PM Eastern)

You must register in advance for this meeting – go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tJfE9LmRm0GXD0VuPbbIJAZt8>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The Electoral College: Perils and Possibilities for the 2020 Presidential Election

CWI's program for the October 27th virtual meeting, *"The Electoral College: Perils and Possibilities for the 2020 Presidential Election"* will provide information on the Electoral College, its history, current practice, and future possibilities. Contrary to what many assume and what we have witnessed in past elections it is not the popular vote but the votes cast by the Electoral College that elects the President of the United States. A speaker from the Brennan Center (TBD) will explain the legal underpinnings of the Electoral College and how States determine their Electoral College votes. Pam Wilmot from Common Cause will provide information on how The National Popular Vote Compact would make the country's popular vote determine the Presidential election outcome. Ronnie Pawelko from The Alliance for Justice will discuss other concerns relating to the Electoral College system and provide a reminder of the rules for 501 (c) (3) and 501 (c) (4) organizations advocacy during and after elections and provide examples of activities that may and may not be engaged in. The meeting is organized by CWI's Vice President for Legal Affairs, **Jeanette Lim Esbrook**.

Pam Wilmot is Vice President of State Operations for Common Cause where she oversees a nationwide network of 30 state offices and advisory boards. She has added this responsibility to her longstanding work as Massachusetts Common Cause Executive Director. She is an expert on the electoral college, campaign finances, ethics, elections and transparency laws. She also is the Director of the National Popular Vote initiative to ensure the winner of the popular vote receives 270 Electoral Votes and becomes president through the National Popular Vote Compact. She has a J.D. from Northeastern University, a Masters in social work from Smith College and a Bachelor's degree from Brown University. She received the John Gardner Public Service Award in 2017.

Ronnie Pawelko is Senior Counsel for the Bolder Advocacy program at Alliance for Justice and is based in AFJ's Washington, DC office. Through trainings and technical assistance, she provides nonprofit advocacy organizations and foundations with accessible information, resources, and information so organizations can safely navigate complex laws and rules as they pursue systems change. Ronnie received her J.D. from Albany Law School and her B.A. from Russell Sage College. Before joining AFJ, Ronnie was General Counsel at Family Planning Advocates of New York State. Previously, Ronnie served as Health and Human Services Team Counsel for the New York State Senate and as staff attorney for the MergerWatch Project.

Next CWI Zoom Meeting: Noon Tue. Nov 17, 2020. How Election Results Influence Priorities for Women's Issues in Health, Education, Justice, Governance and more

SUMMARY OF 9-22-20 CWI MEETING ON: GET OUT THE VOTE STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE HIGH AND DIVERSE VOTER TURNOUT

The meeting started with tributes to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) from CWI Vice President Legal Affairs, **Jeanette Lim Esbrook** and CWI Treasurer, **Holly Joseph**.

Summary of **Jeanette's** Tribute to RBG:



On September 19, 2020, the day after RBG died, Jeanette took flowers to pay her respect and express profound sadness. RBG, as a Civil Rights lawyer, was especially meaningful to her. At the Supreme Court, Jeanette saw many flowers, signs and people, especially children - little girls who were expressing their respect. RBG died on Rosh Hashanah. The Jewish belief is a person who dies on Rosh Hashanah, the start of the Jewish New Year, is a person of "Great Righteousness," a "TZADDIK" so appropriate for Ruth Bader Ginsburg. (See photo of Jeanette honoring RBG at the Supreme Court.)

- RBG used brilliant litigation strategies to advance protections against sex discrimination. She tactically selected cases of gender discrimination against women by showing the impact on men in order to educate male judges about sex discrimination. In *Frontiero v. Richardson* (1973) Sharon Frontiero was a U.S. Air Force pilot and was denied housing and medical benefits for her husband. These benefits were automatically given to wives of

the Air Force servicemen. RBG represented Sharon Frontiero before the Supreme Court and won. In *Weinberger v. Wiesenfeld* (1975) Social Security benefits of their deceased husbands were available for widows while caring for minor children but not available for similarly situated widowers caring for minor children. RBG won this case before the Supreme Court. Before becoming a Justice of the Court, she argued six cases before SCOTUS and won five.

When compared to Thurgood Marshall for her brilliance in case selection strategy, RBG said, "My life was never in danger." She knew that Thurgood Marshall stood with his clients across the South and faced dangers. "He put his life on the line," she said, "something I have never done." She gained courage and inspiration from Marshall's example. Like him, she understood it was necessary to educate her audience of decision-makers about discrimination.

Jeanette's own legal work was related to RBG's work on integrating all male public colleges. In June, 1996, RBG delivered the 7-1 Virginia Military Institute (VMI) opinion. Clarence Thomas's son was a VMI student, and the Justice recused himself. Antonin Scalia dissented. In her majority opinion, RBG stated that VMI failed to show an "exceedingly persuasive justification" for limiting this education opportunity to men only. VMI was supported by public funds from all citizens: men, women and people of all races and ethnicities. These military educational institutions prepared "citizen-soldiers" for leadership in civilian life as well as military service sometimes exposing students to challenging approaches. VMI argued that this type of education was not suitable for men and women together and proposed to establish a "separate but equal" institution for women only. In both Virginia and South Carolina, a graduate of VMI and the Citadel became a member of an influential network of men who were often elected to public office or serve on boards of companies and powerful institutions. The graduates wore their rings proudly which gave them instantaneous recognition as a

member of this powerful elite. The provision of a separate but equal institution for women was not an equivalent opportunity given the history and long standing reputation of these schools and their networks. RBG stated that this educational opportunity should not be denied women based on stereotypical presumptions about interests and abilities and that some men may find this type of education unsuitable. VMI had to admit women.

Jeanette said, “On June 26, 1996, I and three other Department of Justice attorneys were in the Eastern District Court of Judge C. Weston Houck to begin The Citadel trial. Judge Houck announced from the Bench that the Supreme Court had just ruled that VMI had to admit women, and because of that ruling, he ordered that the attorneys representing the U.S. and attorneys representing the Citadel were relieved from presenting their case. He ordered us to develop an “Assimilation Plan” to immediately admit women to the Citadel. It took nearly a year to do that. The graduation ring was a topic of discussion under the Assimilation Plan, and I voiced concern that the women cadets upon graduation would be awarded a smaller version, one that had been designed for mothers, sweethearts and wives of graduating male cadets. My colleagues thought it was not important and asked me to step down on the issue which I reluctantly did. But on the final day in May, 1997, when the Court accepted the Assimilation Plan, Judge Houck surprised us all when he stated that he had one final concern, and that was the ring. He understood its importance and ordered that women graduates would receive the same size ring as the male cadet graduates. I felt it was my private victory.”

Holly Joseph said she remembered seeing RBG and Scalia in discussion where he said, “What’s not to like about her?” RBG’s motto was “Fight for things you care about but lead others to join you.” May her memory do it in a way that will lead a revolution and full compliance with her dying wish not to select a new Supreme Court Justice until after the new President is inaugurated.

Megan Corrado, Esq. CWI Secretary and VP Global Issues introduced and moderated the panel on [Get Out the Vote Strategies](#).

Christine Chen, Executive Director of the Asian and Pacific Islander Vote ([APIAVote](#)), said that there was high motivation for all Asian Americans to get out the vote and that many were still persuadable. In the past there has been little information on how various Asian American populations vote. But APIAVote has conducted this research as shown in these [Slides](#) on its website.



Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group in the U.S. and had a record high turnout in the 2018 midterm elections. They will be especially important in competitive states and Congressional districts especially NV, NC, GA, TX, FL, PA, MI, southern CA and NJ. Asian Americans are the only racial group that is majority immigrant, and there are as many Asian American immigrant voters as Latinx voters. Despite significant diversity in socioeconomic status, the various Asian American population groups have similar views about inclusion, the social safety net, and economic justice.

The September 15, 2020, “2020 Asian American Voter Survey” was conducted online and by phone from July 15-Sept. 10, 2020. It included a national sample of Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese registered voters. Most subgroups except for Vietnamese favor Biden over Trump by nearly 2:1 ratio. Indian Americans are strongest on Democratic preferences. The Vietnamese are the only group favoring Trump. For Party Identification, 27 to 54% identify as Democrat; 28 to 41% as independent, and 16 to 38% as

Republican. The issues of health care, education and racial discrimination are top concerns favoring Democrats, but on the economy Republicans are slightly favored. Asian Americans are progressive on issues such as immigration, racial justice, gun control and environmental protections. Compared to other communities, the Asian American community is contacted less by campaigns. There seems to be more support for the Democratic candidates in the House, Senate, and for President except for the Vietnamese who have more conservative and anti-Communist views. Younger generations in all groups are most progressive. Here is another great survey: Mighty Voices: Asian American and Pacific Islander Women Voters in 2020, <https://www.napawf.org/our-work/content/2020/8/26/mighty-voices> . This National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum survey shows the importance of reproductive rights to Asian Pacific Women. Poll workers are needed: <https://www.powerthepolls.org/?source=APIAVote>

Janice Mathis, Esq. Executive Director of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. ([NCNW](#)) discussed how the COVID 19 pandemic is deepening division and complicating civic engagement.



We tend to focus on the Presidential race in general elections, but we must also consider how pending litigation, control of the Senate, as well as state races will influence national policy and budgetary priorities. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) could disappear in the middle of the pandemic as the result of legal challenges in the Supreme Court. It can be overwhelming to keep hope burning so you feel motivated. There is disparate maternal health care, underlying conditions that make COVID more fatal to African Americans. The intersection of every pandemic seems to run through the African American community along with Latinos and people who have to be out of their homes and work. Only about 1 in 5 African Americans can work at home. That is the lowest percentage of any group.

Many of their jobs are manual and require lots of physical stamina – ambulance drivers, fighting fires. This is taking out pillars of the community that one would normally turn to in times of need to stabilize. Therefore, we must get closer not to some type of oligarchy but rather to democracy that allows for equal protection for everyone and not just a fortunate few. priorities are conflicting with each other.

The rules for US voting are so arbitrary. Jimmy Carter, who monitors elections worldwide, famously said that he can not do so in the USA because there is no central authority nor standard rules of operation or law. We see the weakness in federal leadership seemingly incapable of formulating a comprehensive plan to stem the pandemic. Who should say? Governors? The President? State/Local officials? Who should take responsibility? This is revealing how much we took for granted. Norms is not quite the adequate word for what we are describing for this period in time. Norms function like laws except they do not need to be prosecuted, tried, they are just understood. It takes a while for people to catch up with how to carry on in a new system such as increased voting by mail which is needed now during the pandemic.

We put a lot of focus on young people. The other night NCNW had [“Adulting 101”](#) – what it means to be an adult citizen, with Angela Rye, rapper YELLOWPAIN, presidents of Wilberforce and Cheyney, two HBCUs founded in the 19th century, Dr. Cole, and more, because only 25% of people under 25 years old vote, which is a lower rate of participation than anyplace in Western Europe. This is unacceptable because the consequences of failed policies fall most heavily upon young people. Youth tend to be more often in trouble with the law or regulatory issues and makes them a target. It takes a while to grow up and realize how to make oneself less of a target, such as by voting. Voting is basic, it should be like brushing your teeth, exercising, drinking water, and

other self-care. We put a lot of energy into trying to get people to vote and training them to be poll workers and monitors. It is likely we may have resistance so people have to know what their basic rights are.

Questions to Mathis and other presenters:

Volunteer opportunities? [NCNW.org](https://www.ncnw.org) – click on [DONATE button for COVID relief](#). Also, there is a need for phone banking and people to encourage people to fill out the [Census](#). The [NCNW national convention](#) is this week.

Considering COVID, how are APIA and NCNW, et al, doing outreach to colleges these days since most schools are online, etc., and historically often somewhat difficult to get to vote?

Mathis answered: Via the Internet- by social media. That is the preferred method by the digital natives, and the message has to be authentic and beautiful.

Chen answered: They have an ambassador program and trainings and they continue to train folks to be their own messengers. A lot has shifted to social media and since many people are at home, they are encouraging intergenerational conversations and influencing, for example between grandchildren and grandparents.

Is the low rate of contact from various political parties due to not being involved in online mailings and site searches? What would you identify as the challenge?

Chen answered: Making the campaigns understand the importance of the Asian American electorate for the particular state/area they are focusing on, ensuring they are doing this early on, and not only the last 4 weeks of a campaign because we have seen that those who develop the relationship and engage early on yield much more if they do so correctly. She gave the example of Nevada and Virginia with changing demographics and local candidates starting to tap into the Asian American voter more, and later the presidential candidates doing so as well.



Alice Cohan and **Eleanor Smeal**, Political Director and President of the [Feminist Majority](#) and [the Feminist Majority Foundation](#). Alice pointed out that to advance women's rights we need to flip the Senate and prevent the confirmation of a conservative Supreme Court Justice before the inauguration of a President in Jan. 2021. To work toward these goals Feminist Majority and NOW have created a PAC, "Vote for Equality", which focuses on college students of whom only 40% have traditionally voted. It is working to mobilize the student vote with 88 schools in 7 key states (AZ, IA, KA, NC, SC, ME and MT) where they can flip U.S. Senate seats and elect pro-ERA, pro-



choice, pro-democracy Democrats. It currently involves 800 students who work online with virtual platforms, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to get out the vote and provide local information on voter registration and changes in election laws and knowing their election rights.

The PAC also works on defeating anti-abortion referendums in Louisiana and Colorado. The Colorado referendum targets Dr. Norm Hearn who is one of the few providers of late term abortions in the nation.

Students are an important target group because of the current confusion on campuses due to how different campuses are coping with Covid -19 and because of students' deep concern about issues such as climate change, equality, immigration, and more. Of course, much attention should be given to supporting the ACA and the ERA. Many may not be aware that the third largest health insurer is in KY, home of Mitch McConnell. A key focus should be on winning in the Electoral College as well as an overwhelming popular vote. Help by donating to www.vote forequality.us.

Our next CWI meeting on Oct. 27 will focus on the Electoral College and how it might be manipulated.

Coming DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Times are Eastern. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities.

To join the National Women's Political Caucus VA chapter, contact katihornung@gmail.com or jane.newell@comcast.net, or visit NWPC.org/membership.

Maryland Women's History Podcast Releases Second Season

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Ballot & Beyond is a multi-media public history exhibit and podcast highlighting the work of remarkable Maryland women with a focus on the state's suffragists and activists. More than 55 episodes are available now for streaming and reading on: ballotandbeyond.org.

Tune in to episodes of Ms. magazine podcasts, On the issues with Michele Goodwin on [Podcasts](#) + [Spotify](#).

Events:

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020, 11:30-1PM "Confronting Racism In and Through the Arts with Molly Smith from Arena Stage, Womans National Democratic Club. [Register](#)

Friday, Oct. 16 11AM -7PM Title IX, MeToo, & Administrative Law: Responding to Backlash, & Looking to the Future. Information & Registration [Click Here to Join](#)

Friday, Oct. 16 , 1PM Equality Now, AAUW DC Branch [Register](#)

Sat. Oct. 17, 2020. 2nd part of Feminist Majority and National Organization for Women National Virtual Conference Free but for information [Register](#).

Sat. Oct. 17, 2020. Women's March in DC and other locations. DC 11 AM start at Freedom Plaza [RSVP](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020 10 AM-11:30 AM WEBCAST: Women Transforming Peace: Celebrating 20 Years of UNSCR 1325 and Beyond. US institute of Peace &RSVP <https://www.usip.org/events/women-transforming-peace>

Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020 6PM-7:30PM, The Segregation Pandemic: Brown as Treatment or Placebo? American Educational Research Association Brown Lecture [Register](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020 Noon CWI zoom Meeting The Electoral College: Perils and Possibilities for the 2020 Presidential Election, Registration
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOivpjliE9LImRm0GXD0VuPbbIJAZt8>

Tuesday Nov. 3, 2020 Presidential Election.

Sat. Nov. 7, 2020-Virtual NOW Conference, Women, Money and Power Plenary Session and Workshops. [Information and Registration](#)

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

Meeting summary by Feminist Majority Foundation Board members: Jeanette Lim Esbrook, Janice Mathis, Sue Klein and Sherry Klein.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2020

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Membership Form

<https://womensclearinghouse.org/>

The CWI membership year is: **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year and Gift memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in beginning and end years (e.g. 2020-2023 for a 3-yr membership). Members will receive CWI newsletters and meeting announcements as well as other feminist news and event notifications. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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NAME _____ EMAIL _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE: H/W _____ CELL _____

OR

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

ORGANIZATION NAME _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
Organization website address (URL): _____
NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 1) _____
PHONE _____ CELL _____
NAME & EMAIL of Org. Rep.: 2) _____
PHONE _____ CELL _____

Membership Years Covered: 202_ - 202_ (Check your Membership Type)

	Individual		Organization		Young Adult (< 30 yrs. old)		Virtual (outside DC area)	
One-year		\$25		\$40		\$15/yr.		\$20/yr.
Two-year		\$45		\$70	Gift Membership (insert information in individual or organization membership)			
Three-year		\$65		\$100				

Membership Dues Amount: _____
Tax deductible donation: _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____
Date of Payment _____

- Mail form & check to Connie Cordovilla, Membership Chair, CWI, 7439 Patterson Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043-1332; or
- Pay through PayPal, by selecting the desired membership option on our website's membership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/> & please send this form by mail to the above address or email it to MembershipChair@womensclearinghouse.org; or
- Bring a check, payable to CWI, and this completed form to a CWI meeting. (Form Revised: 10/13/20)



November 2020 CWI Newsletter <https://womensclearinghouse.org>

Invitation to CWI Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, November 17, 2020 (12:00-1:30 PM)

Feminist Priorities in the Biden/Harris Administration

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

12:00-1:30 pm via Zoom

Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdOivpiliE9LImRm0GXD50VuPbbIJAZt8>

The election is over and the country is holding its breath as we move into a new era in the government. What the change of administration (and the election of the first woman Vice President) mean for feminist goals and aims? The CWI will explore the areas of health, economics and education as well as the process the transition team will utilize to nominate new leaders in these policy areas to accomplish the vision developed in the Biden Agenda for Women (<https://joebiden.com/womens-agenda/#>)

Meeting speakers:

Ben Strand, from Senator Mazie Hirono's office (D-HI), will discuss the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity Education Act, (GEEA), which Senator Hirono reintroduced during the 116th Congress (2019-2020) with Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA). GEEA would provide additional resources, training, and technical assistance to support the full implementation of Title IX. Ben Strand is a Legislative Assistant for Senator Hirono, and in his current policy role, covers education, arts and humanities, science and technology, workforce development, and related issues. He graduated from Villanova University with a B.A. in Political Science and American History, and a M.A. in Political Science.

Donna Lent, President of the National Women's Political Caucus, has agreed to share her political savvy and wisdom as to how the nominations process for the new Administration's feminist leadership team will unfold under the Coalition for Women's Appointments which she is re-establishing. Donna Lent, a member of NWPC for twenty-seven years, was elected to an unprecedented third term as President at the NWPC Biennial Convention in 2019. As president, Donna has successfully reduced overhead for the National office while maintaining and expanding programs. Prior to this position, Donna served as First Vice President of the National Board and Vice President of Political Planning. She also served as President of the New York State NWPC. Donna is currently the elected Town Clerk of Brookhaven, NY, a role she assumed in 2013 and was elected to a second four-year term in 2017.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research has just released a new report entitled "Build(ing) the Future: Bold Policies for a Gender-Equitable Recovery" (<https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Policies-for-a-Gender-Equitable-Recovery-Finalsm2.pdf>) which thoroughly covers stressors and solutions facing working women in the wake of the economic downturn caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope to have a speaker from that organization. We will discuss the findings in the new report.

Dr. Diana Zuckerman, PhD, President of the National Center for Health Research received her PhD in psychology from Ohio State University and was a post-doctoral fellow in epidemiology and public health at Yale Medical School. After various academic positions she worked for a decade as a Congressional and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) staffer and Clinton Administration adviser on health

programs and policies. She will address a wide range of priorities, such as improving testing, treatments, and vaccines for Covid-19; improving access to reproductive health; improving the ACA; how lack of diversity in clinical trials harms women of color; the lowering of safety standards for medical products (speed and greed vs. safety and effectiveness); and the need for rebuilding and strengthening the clout and independence of the Offices focused on women's health in the various federal health agencies.

Megan Corrado, Esq., CWI's Vice President for Global Affairs, will address some key priorities to achieve a feminist foreign policy to ensure women's meaningful participation in all facets of decision-making and improve the lives of women and families around the world, including recent recommendations on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and efforts to address reproductive health and gender-based violence on a global scale. Megan, an international human rights attorney, currently serves as the Co-Chair of the U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security, and previously worked as the Director of Advocacy with Women for Afghan Women and Program Director and Counsel with the Public International Law and Policy Group, in addition to roles in the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Congress, and British Parliament.

These and other issues are also covered in Women Demand More: A Letter to Federal Elected Officials and Candidates From the Women's Community (<https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Womens-Community-Transition-Letter-Draft-10.15.2020.pdf>) which was created and endorsed by a number of women's groups.

Note from Co-Presidents Sue Klein and Connie Cordovilla

We join feminists in congratulating the Biden/Harris team in winning the November 2020 election. We urge everyone to consider supporting the **National Popular Vote Compact** so that in the next presidential election everyone's vote will be counted equally no matter what state you are from. We also wish the candidates for the Senate seats in Georgia who are most supportive of feminist issues our best. Again many thanks to all our meeting presenters and attendees and our hardworking volunteer CWI Board.

Here is a recent list of Biden/Harris transition team members. <https://buildbackbetter.com/the-transition/agency-review-teams/>

CWI Zoom Meeting Summary, Tuesday October 27, 2020 - 12:00-1:30 PM EST *"The Electoral College: Perils and Possibilities for the 2020 Presidential Election"*

Introduction

Meeting organizer and moderator: **Jeanette Lim Esbrook**, CWI's VP for Legal Affairs introduced the topic and presenters.

Jeanette started the meeting by sharing what to expect. On December 14th, Electoral College Electors in their respective states meet to actually cast their votes. The votes are counted in a joint session of Congress on January 6. The sitting vice president—who is also president of the Senate—will count up the Electoral College Votes. When it comes to the amount of Electoral College Electors – D.C. has 3, MD has 10, and VA has 13. Each state gets 2 electors (for the number of senators) and an additional number according to their number of congressional representatives.



Professor Gerardo Vildostegui, a lawyer specializing in voting rights from the Brennan Center explained the legal and historical underpinnings of the Electoral College and how States determine their Electoral College votes.

He noted that “the topic has many dimensions—historical, legal, philosophical—but that his discussion would be shaped by the times/context, as we are currently in an election. The Electoral College has practical effects:”

- The Electoral College can produce outcomes that are different from those in a nationwide, direct popular election This has happened 5 times (1824, 1876, 1888, 2000, and 2016) in our history of 58 Presidential Elections. The first three “wayward results”

occurred in the 1800s.

- The 2000 and 2016 elections revealed an era where the Electoral College can produce these wayward outcomes. A margin of 3% means that the chances the Electoral College will produce a winner other than the popular vote is 1 in 3. The possibility for the Electoral College to produce a wayward result has increased (FiveThirtyEight ex. states that Trump has a likelihood of winning the popular vote at 3% but winning the Electoral College at 12%; shows how the Electoral college inflates changes.)
- Campaigning predominantly happens in 6-12 swing/battleground states where the winner is not yet clear. This impacts campaigning, public policy, etc. For example, California was initially ignored by the President Trump in regard to federal aid for its wildfires because as we know California is not a swing/battleground state.

The phrase Electoral College does not appear in the Constitution. The College part has been added by commentators. Its mandate is in [Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution](#) as well as the 23rd Amendment for DC. “Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors.” The winner-take-all system is present in all states, except for Maine and Nebraska. This flexibility gives space for state legislatures to agree to participate in a National Popular Vote Compact.

See also: <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/advance-constitutional-change/electoral-college-reform> .

Pam Wilmot, Vice President of State Operations and Massachusetts Common Cause Executive Director. She is also the head of the National Popular Vote Initiative (www.nationalpopularvote.com). She provided information on how The National Popular Vote Compact would make the country's popular vote determine the Presidential election outcome and other solutions including proposals to end the Electoral College.

She said we came close to getting rid of the Electoral College in the Nixon Years. Polling has been done for ~50 years by the Gallup organization, which gave us insight into how support for removing the Electoral College was across party lines. But, after the Donald Trump election, the support by Republicans has decreased to the 30s and for Democrats, has increased to the 80s. Like other topics, this has become very polarized over time. The Electoral College doesn't help small states that much. But it truly helps the six swing or battle-ground states.



She discussed Common Cause Slides which show how the current system works. (See Common Cause National Popular Vote flyer link at end of this summary.) The Constitution gives each state electors equal to its number of Congressional Representatives and Senators combined. Most states give ALL of their electors to the winner in their state regardless of whether the candidate wins by one or by millions of votes. These 'winner-takes-all' state laws are not in the Constitution and have changed over time. Maine and Nebraska use the different Congressional District System.

There are inherent problems with the current system:

- National candidates have no reason to poll, advertise, organize, or visit states that they cannot possibly win or lose. And because of winner-take-all laws, very few states are competitive. We all know the swing states: Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania, and 6 or so smaller states. Voters in these states, not the American public as a whole, pick the president. The rest of us are spectators.
- The current system also means that the candidate who placed second in the national popular vote was elected in 2016, 2000, 1888, 1876, and 1824. This leaves most voters out. Nearly 65% of the voters live in states where candidates rarely, if ever, visit during the campaign.

Under the National Popular Vote Compact bill all of electoral votes from states passing the legislation are given to the candidate who receives the most popular votes nationwide. But the law only takes effect when enacted, in identical form, by states constituting a majority in the Electoral College (270 of the 538 electoral votes).

- To determine the winner of a presidential election, state election officials would simply combine the certified results from each state and select electors accordingly.

The National Popular Vote plan is in an interstate compact – a type of state law authorized by the U.S. Constitution that enables states to enter into a legally enforceable contractual obligation. The effect of the National Popular Vote Compact is the same as a constitutional amendment to abolish the electoral college but has benefit of retaining the power to control presidential elections in states' hands. This feature is critical to the passionate bipartisan support the compact receives. She noted that any changes in our Constitution that relate to voting rights (for women, direct election of Senators, etc.) started with state action.

In summary, here are the benefits of National Popular Vote:

- It would ensure the candidate with the most popular votes is elected
Every vote in every state would be equal.
- It would increase civic participation by giving voters in all states an incentive to vote in elections.
- It would eliminate misleading 'red' and 'blue' election maps (most states are purple/varied).
- It would ensure candidates run in all 50 states and pay attention to the concerns of all voters, regardless of which state they live in. There would be less opportunity for a close outcome or recount—and less incentive for fraud. The popular vote total has never been within the margin of error (0.1%). Current States that have passed NPVC are listed on the [Common Cause Website](https://www.commoncause.org/our-work/voting-and-elections/national-popular-vote/). It shows 196 of the needed 270! Only 74 more votes to go.

It is too late for the National Popular Vote Compact to be used for this upcoming Nov. 3, 2020 election as it would have had to be approved by July 1. See more from Common Cause:

<https://www.commoncause.org/our-work/voting-and-elections/national-popular-vote/> and <https://www.commoncause.org/massachusetts/our-work/expand-voting-rights-election-integrity/national-popular-vote/> .

Ronnie Pawelko, Senior Counsel for the Bolder Advocacy Program of The Alliance for Justice discussed other concerns relating to the Electoral College system and provided a reminder of the rules for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations advocacy during and after elections. She also provided examples of activities that may and may not be engaged in. See Bolder Advocacy blog: <https://bolderadvocacy.org/2020/10/22/what-nonprofits-can-do-in-a-contested-election/>



A lot of litigation will and has already taken place, especially about what voting procedures are allowed and what votes will count. Before election results are certified a lot of issues may arise, especially with absentee ballots (signatures match, arrival timing, etc.) Litigation may address whether a delayed result occurs is an indication of fraud (particularly important in this upcoming election with the increase in absentee ballots). She noted that more Democrats seem to be voting by absentee in this election (in comparison to Republicans, who have been more likely to vote in person by comparison).

She briefed us on the roles of tax exempt 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations related to electoral college and general candidate support issues.

A 501(c)(4) in federal elections, can support a candidate, make independent expenditures and post-election, they are able to target activities in a partisan way.

501(c)(3)'s can get involved in similar work to 501(c)(4)'s, but must remain non-partisan:

- Administrative advocacy—limited in the amount of lobbying they can do (Secretary of State and ballot counting, for example)
- They are able to encourage people to ballot chase in a nonpartisan way
- Could encourage people to cure their ballot in a nonpartisan way
- Can get involved in litigation: make sure all valid ballots are counted and that constitutional laws are followed (may not be able to do this on their own)
- Can do direct advocacy and lobbying (ex. of emergency session of Congress; but it was noted that this is unlikely)
- Protests encouraging people to ensure all votes are counted—can encourage voters to join protests, sponsor protests, and stand in front of the Board of Elections

Q&A (with additional research/links)

- 1887 Electoral Count Act - <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2020/09/trump-biden-electoral-count-act-1887/615994/> provides information on a failed election
- Safe Harbor Deadline - <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11641>
 - On December 14th, electors meet in their states to cast a vote
 - On January 6th, the VP (who also acts as the President of the Senate) will preside over a joint session of the new House and Senate to count the Electoral Votes (federal law)

Links to additional articles/resources on the Electoral College

- <https://womensclearinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/The-Electoral-College-Is-Hated-by-Many.pdf>

- <https://womensclearinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WHY-THE-ELECTORAL-COLLEGE-EXISTS-National-Geographic.pdf>
- <https://womensclearinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/The-Electoral-College-Explained-NYT-10-12-20.pdf>
- In depth look at the electoral college and a range of potential issues:
<https://www.thefirstamendment.org/media/The-Storm-That-Might-Blow-Away-Democracy.pdf>
- Common Cause National Popular Vote Flyer <https://womensclearinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NATIONAL-POPULAR-VOTE-National-Flyer.pdf>

DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

Please send your upcoming feminist events to post in CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org . LIKE and FOLLOW us on CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWInews pages! Also SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our video sponsor & provider.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. Times are Eastern. Paid-up CWI members will receive additional forwarded email messages on additional feminist meetings and activities.

To join the National Women's Political Caucus VA chapter, contact katihornung@gmail.com or jane.newell@comcast.net , or visit NWPC.org/membership.

Maryland Women's History Podcast Releases Second Season

Ballot & Beyond is produced by Preservation Maryland.

Ballot & Beyond is a multi-media public history exhibit and podcast highlighting the work of remarkable Maryland women with a focus on the state's suffragists and activists. More than 55 episodes are available now for streaming and reading on: ballotandbeyond.org.

Tune in to episodes of Ms. magazine podcasts, On the issues with Michele Goodwin on [Apple Podcasts](#) + [Spotify](#).

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

Meeting summary by NOW Intern, Mackenzie Flynn and the meeting presenters.

Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Membership Form

<https://womensclearinghouse.org/>

The CWI membership year is: **July 1-June 30**. Multi-year and Gift memberships are encouraged and discounted! Please fill in beginning and end years (e.g. 2020-2023 for a 3-yr membership). Members will receive CWI newsletters and meeting announcements as well as other feminist news and event notifications. Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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- Pay through PayPal, by selecting the desired membership option on our website's membership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/membership/> & please send this form by mail to the above address or email it to MembershipChair@womensclearinghouse.org; or
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