



HEADLINES

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHITE PLAINS

March 2017

President, Stephen Cohen

www.lwvwp.org



Editor & Designer,

Libby Hollahan

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Please join us for our

Spring Program

Weds., April 19, 7-9 p.m.

Church St. School Auditorium

Issues in

Voting Rights Today

Featured Speaker

Tomas Lopez, Esq.

The Brennan Center for Justice

of the New York University School of Law

Other panelists to be announced

Tomas Lopez is Counsel for the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, where his work focuses on voting rights and elections. Prior to joining the Brennan Center, he was a fellow at the Southern Poverty Law Center's Immigrant Justice Project. There, he worked on litigation and advocacy challenging anti-immigrant legislation in Alabama.

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*Off board

President's Message

March 2017

In a bright sun-filled Sunday afternoon a few weeks ago members and friends of your local League came together at our annual Winter party. We honored our colleague Lena Anderson, Esq., President of the NAACP White Plains/Greenburgh, with the League of Women Voters of White Plains Civic Engagement award. I was moved when Lena reminded us that the date was the anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama. A sad reminder of the struggle for voting rights in America that continues to this day. And the League of Women Voters remains committed to our guiding principles of voter education, protecting voter rights and expanding voter access.



Recently, New York State Attorney General, Eric Schneiderman introduced the *New York Votes Act*, the goal of which is to "simplify the voting process, boost voter registration and increase turnout." The proposed Act provides for early voting, automatic voter registration and "no excuse" absentee voting, among other things. All are vitally important especially in light of a recent report ([New York Election News](#)) that in the 2016 election New York State voter turnout ranked 41st in the nation (57% of the voting eligible population).

While some aspects of New York State voting laws can be changed through legislation, other areas are covered in the NYS Constitution. Another item to consider when you think about which way to vote on the November 2017 ballot question about whether to hold a convention to revise and amend the NYS constitution.

All of this is the context for LWVWP's Spring program about voting in America, lessons from the 2016 election and areas for reforms. Our current plan is for background from local experts, a panel discussion and an open dialog with you, our members and supporters. So, mark your calendar and plan to attend what promises to be an interesting evening.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that LWVWP will sponsor events during the upcoming ArtsWestchester exhibition, *Suffrage Now!* scheduled for Fall 2017. Details to follow in next month's issue of *Headlines*.

**In League,
Stephen Cohen, President**

Around the League

From Chris Carson, President of LWVUS:

Last week we [launched our opposition to the congressional healthcare plan which would](#) revoke coverage for millions of Americans while dangerously raising costs for millions more. Meanwhile, I attended a redistricting convening at Duke University, moderating an expert [panel discussion on gerrymandering](#).

League activists are leading the [fight on redistricting reform nationwide](#), speaking out to improve voting access and holding elected leaders accountable when they try to restrict the vote. We're stepping up our voter engagement for 2017 and 2018 elections, with plans to register young people at [more than 200 high schools](#) and community colleges nationwide this spring and thousands of New Americans at more than 500 citizenship ceremonies this year.

State League Updates

New York Health Bill Advocacy: Madeline Zevon and Anne Burton, co-chairs of the Health Committee of LWV New York State, want to inform you of a planned State Day of Action for Healthcare for All in support of universal health care. It will take place Tuesday, April 4, in Albany. The day will start with a New York Health info session, followed by a rally in West Capital Park, and visits to legislators. Contact Madeline at madeleine.zevon@gmail.com for more information and for instructions on how to register.

The New York State League has taken a position in support of the New York Health bill; you can read it [here](#).

Madeline also participates on the Westchester County League's Health Care Committee, along with other LWVWP members Harriet Slivka, Ruth Goldberg, Steve Rabinowitz, Renee Shanker, Joanne Reisch and Judith Tanen.

Lobby Day 2017: The New York State League invites you to Advocacy Training/Lobby Day on April 25, 2017. Come learn about the State League's advocacy agenda, hear directly from the Issue Specialists about our expected action for the 2017 Legislative Session, and lobby your own legislators.

Presenters will include Dare Thompson, LWVNYS President, Sally Robinson, LWVNYW VP for Advocacy, Barbara Bartoletti, LWVNYS Legislative Director, along with LWVNYS Issue specialists on election reform, women's issues, ethics, financing education, judicial reform, healthcare, and more. The registration fee is \$15 (includes lunch). Go here to [register](#).

Con-con on the ballot November 2017: The New York State Constitution mandates that every 20 years voters be presented with the ballot question: "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?" This question will appear on the ballot in Nov. 2017.

The LWVWP, together with several other local leagues and the County League, recently sponsored an information to address this issue. At the program, Sally Robinson, LWVNYS Vice President of Issues and Advocacy, discussed *The Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of New York State's Constitutional Convention Question*, and answered audience questions. It is a complex issue, and voters can learn more on the [State League website](#), and view this program, taped by White Plains Community Media, at their [website](#).

County League News

LWV Westchester County honored at Board of Legislators' Women's History Month Event

The Westchester County Board of Legislators celebrated Women's History Month at a gathering earlier this month.

Legislator Alfreda Williams, Majority Whip, spoke about "Celebrating Women Serving the Public Good." The Legislators honored the County League for its work to encourage informed and active participation in government. Adelaide DiGiorgi, First Vice President, accepted the award.

Also honored were Lindsay Farrell, President and CEO of Open Door Family Medical Center, and Jeni Wallace, Executive Director of The Matthew Wallace Foundation.



Winter Party 2017



NYS Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins with Honoree Lena Anderson



LWVWP Board Member Madeline Zevon with Honoree Lena Anderson



Legislator Ben Boykin presents Westchester County Proclamation to Lena Anderson



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Our Annual Winter Party, a fundraiser to support LWVWP's programs was great fun and a great success! Held March 5 at the home of LWVWP Vice President Janice Abbott and her husband Richard Bernstein, the event attracted over 60 guests to enjoy the festivities and to celebrate with our honoree, Lena Anderson, Esq., President of the White Plains Greenburgh branch of the NAACP.

Ms. Anderson was presented with LWVWP's Civic Engagement Award In recognition of her leadership of the NAACP White Plains-Greenburgh branch, focused on a national agenda of education, health, civic engagement, criminal justice, economic development, youth empowerment and environmental justice, and her collaboration with the League of Women Voters of White Plains to promote voter registration and voter education.

We were pleased to have many of our local elected officials on hand to honor Lena, including New York State Senators Andrea Stewart-Cousins and George Latimer, New York State Assembly Member David Buchwald, Westchester County Legislator Ben Boykin, White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, and White Plains Common Council Members John Kirkpatrick, Milagros Lecuona, and Beth Smayda.

The party raised over \$1,100, which will help pay for programs such as Students Inside Albany, speaker honoraria, and costs of our publications.



Stephen Cohen, LWVWP President , presents Honoree Lena Anderson with our Civic Engagement Award.



Honoree Lena Anderson with NAACP board members

Mark your calendars:

April 19 Spring Program

May 9 California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser

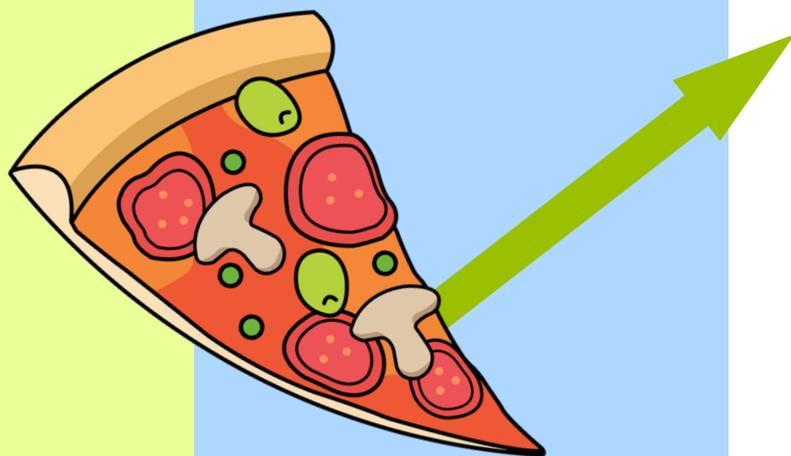
May 10 School Board Candidate Forum

May 16 School Board Candidate & Budget Vote

May 18 Annual Meeting

June 14 Annual Picnic

**Support the LWVWP
at our California Piz-
za Kitchen Fundraiser
on Tuesday, May 9th!
See flyer for details.**



Call for Volunteers, Vote 18:

Voter education and registration remain key missions of our League. We are in the process of scheduling our 2017 Vote 18 program. We will be visiting local high schools to discuss voting with high school seniors and then registering them to vote. League members will visit classes in pairs and will have an orientation before the visits. It's fun and very gratifying and we urge you to volunteer. You can come for one forty minute class or stay for more. As of now we will be at White Plains HS the mornings of March 24 and 28 and Stepinac HS on April 25 for four classes in the morning. We're waiting to hear from other schools.

Please email Beth Kava at bethkava@gmail.com if you're interested in being part of this initiative.

Next LWVWP Book Club:

Letters to A Young Muslim, by Omar Saif Ghobash; postponed; new date TBD. RSVP ja42056@optonline.net. Members and non-members welcome.

Membership Note:

Membership renewal letters for our membership year beginning July 2, 2017 will be mailed to you in May.

Pizza with a purpose.

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server, and we'll donate **20%** of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine in, take out, catering and all beverages.

FUNdraiser in support of:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHITE PLAINS

All Day

TUESDAY MAY 9TH

Dine in or takeout

Valid at the following location:

California Pizza Kitchen

365 Central Park Ave

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(Just north of Hartsdale Post office)

914-722-0600

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**california
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FUNdraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in CPK's FUNdraiser program. CPK will donate twenty percent of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine in, take out, online, catering or curbside orders. Valid for delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the FUNdraiser, please contact the organization directly.



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MEMBERSHIP

JOIN THE LEAGUE & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Yes! I/We would like to join the League of Women Voters of White Plains

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

We do not share personal contact information. Since we lobby on issues, dues are not tax deductible.

- Individual \$55 Household \$80 (payable to LWV White Plains)
- I do not wish to join the League, but please accept my contribution in the amount of \$_____

Please send checks to: LWWWP, PO Box 2032, White Plains, NY 10602

\$32 of dues goes directly to LWVUS, \$18 goes to LWVNYS, \$2 goes to Westchester County LWV.

Only the remaining \$3 goes to fund local White Plains efforts.

- I prefer to receive the Headlines newsletter electronically.

My interests are: Voter service Education Environment Help with Headlines
 Health care Election Reform Youth Other _____

For questions or to suggest someone who might be interested in League membership, please contact Membership Chair Doris Dingott, phone:914-289-0869, email: dldingott@gmail.com

Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters of White Plains is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.