



HEADLINES

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHITE PLAINS

May 2018

President, Stephen Cohen
www.lwwvp.org



Editor & Designer,
Libby Hollahan

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You're Invited!

Join us at the LWVWP

ANNUAL PICNIC

Wednesday, June 20 at 6:30 pm

at the home of Dorothy and Jonathan Schere

14 Winslow Road



Contact Nina Blumenfeld at 761-8995 or ninerblumen@gmail.com and let her know you will attend and what dish you will provide.

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stephen435@optonline.net

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bnoachmail@gmail.com

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Irene.kohn@gmail.com

Membership Doris Dingott
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Rotating responsibilities

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Corresponding Secretary Laura Kerenyi
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May 2018

President's Message

We recently held the League of Women Voters of White Plains annual member meeting and dinner. It was a great evening suffused with energy and enthusiasm. And too, it was confirmation that our members believe in the importance of the League and the role it can play in the civic life of White Plains. New and long-time members came together to hear about our accomplishments of the past year (look for details in our member renewal letter you will receive shortly). **The 2018 – 2019 LWVWP budget was approved and elections were held for our new board.** We wel-

come a few new faces to the board and I am looking forward to working with the entire board. I am grateful to them all for their commitment to the League.

My thanks to Beth Kava whose tireless efforts these past few years as director of Candidate Forums produced a number of outstanding forums that demonstrated it is possible for candidates for public office to have civil conversations while delivering their messages to the voting public. We welcome Marcy Pellenberg as our new director of Candidate Forums. Marcy works fulltime so we are particularly gratified that she has agreed to serve in this capacity. And she welcomes all the help we can give her.

I am also pleased that board member Barbara Noach will become LWVWP vice president and assume the duties of Voter Services chair. There is no doubt she will do a great job.

And on behalf of the LWVWP board, heartfelt thanks to Harriet Slivka a long-time League member and board member responsible for the healthcare portfolio as she steps down from the board.

On Page 4 of this issue you will see the **2018 – 2019 Local Program approved by our members.** It is an ambitious agenda that reflects our continued commitment to voter service, promoting an informed and engaged electorate, and encouraging the youth of our community to become involved in the electoral process. Particularly exciting is a monthly program, **"Community Conversations,"** that the League of Women Voters of White Plains, in partnership with the White Plains Public Library, will begin this fall.

We believe that democracy is built upon rational discussion and compromise that can only be achieved through civil discourse; people learning to discuss sensitive topics and achieving mutual respect and understanding of differing points of view and by acquiring the skills of *active listening*.

We are currently talking to White Plains community stakeholders with the goal of encouraging their "constituents" to participate in these monthly conversations and then integrating what they have learned into their interactions with others going forward.

The White Plains Public Library has been very helpful in this regard because they play a

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Annual LWVWP Membership Meeting, May 16



Photo by Sandy Zevon

Announcing the Board of Directors for 2018-2019:

At the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee presented the following slate, which was approved unanimously by the membership:

TWO YEAR TERM: ENDING 2020

Stephen Cohen President
Doris Dingott Membership Director
Ruth Goldberg Youth Director
Madeline Zevon Publicity Director

TWO YEAR TERM: ENDING 2019

Barbara Noach Vice President/Voter Service
Irene Kohn Treasurer
Recording Secretary OPEN
Barbara Cooper Elected Director At large
Beth Kava Elected Director At large

ONE YEAR TERM: ENDING 2019

Susan Altman Programs
Cliff Blau At Large
Judy Drucker At Large
Carol Heller At-Large
Laura Kerenyi Corresponding Secretary

Submitted by Nominating Committee: Bobbie Baker, Doris Dingott, Roseanne Klein, Rita Malmud, and Madeline Zevon

President's Message continued.....

vital role touching all of the diverse communities in White Plains. We thank library director Brian Kenny for his support and librarian Ben Himmelfarb for working with board member Sue Altman in crafting this program.

As always we thank all of you for your support of LWVWP and please be sure to renew your membership when that invitation arrives in the mail.

I look forward to seeing you at our summer member picnic in June.

In League,
Stephen Cohen
President

League Of Women Voters Of White Plains

2018 – 2019 Local Program

Voter Service

- Voter Service is central to the League's mission by providing information and education about voter registration, candidates, ballot issues, and elections (including key dates), and encouraging citizens to vote. There is a strong focus on engaging with students to promote the importance of elections and voting.
- National Voter Registration day; voter registration drives at area events; Vote 18 at area schools
- Voters Guides (printed) and Vote411 (website)
- Get out the vote for local, state and nation elections.
- Voter information via election calendars, ballot information, poll locations, etc.

Candidates Forums

- Candidates Forums offer residents the opportunity to hear from all candidates in an election in a non-partisan setting that promotes civil discourse.

Information Programs

- Information Programs further the League's goal of promoting an informed and engaged electorate through discussions and presentations.
- "Community Conversations," a program designed to promote civil discourse.
- City and school budgets monitoring and evaluation.
- Local topics of importance to the White Plains community.

The Local Program for 2018-19 was approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 16, 2018.

Youth Programs

- Youth Programs engage and educate young people in the areas of civics and political engagement through collaboration with schools and youth groups, and via LWV-sponsored programs.
- Students Inside Albany which immerses students in the legislative process
- LWVWP Marge Davies Memorial scholarship awarded to a WPHS senior
- White Plains Youth Bureau – collaboration on topics of importance to the community
- Running & Winning encourages young women to consider careers in politics through a mock election and mentoring by elected women in local, state and national government

Membership Development

- Membership Development seeks to actively recruit and retain members through outreach and engagement in the work of LWVWP and by identifying opportunities to raise awareness of the League in the community.

Issues/Advocacy Study and Consensus

- Research and report on issues for study at the local, county, state and national levels

LWVWP Communications

- Communicate with LWVWP members and the community at-large on League activities and inform them of activities, events, important dates, etc.
- LWVWP Headlines (print and electronic); email blasts
- Revamped website and effective use of social media

Scenes from the Winter Party 2018

Honoree Beth Smayda received well-deserved citations from:



NYS Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins



NYS Assembly Member Amy Paulin



*Westchester County Executive
George Latimer*



*Chair, County Board of
Legislators Ben Boykin*



LWVWP President Stephen Cohen



White Plains Mayor Tom Roach

Beth Smayda received the League of Women Voters of White Plains Civic Engagement Award at our Winter Party in March. She was honored for her years of distinguished service on the White Plains Common Council, her many other community involvements, and her achievements in municipal finance. The well attended gathering was held at the home of Janice Abbott and Richard Bernstein.

Photos courtesy of Kate Smayda

Health Care Update

THE NEW YORK HEALTH ACT IMPROVED AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

How is it possible to have more comprehensive health care coverage, include every New Yorker and save \$45 billion a year? Sounds impossible, but that is just what the New York Health Act, currently before the State Legislature, does. 98% of New Yorkers would save an average of \$2,200 a year. In the last Legislative session the bill passed 94-46 in the Assembly and had 31 co-sponsors in the State Senate, just one senator away from a majority.

The political situation is evolving, and there is opportunity to gain support for the bill through the November elections as every New York Senator is up for election and at least five incumbents are not running.

If the New York Health Act passes, all residents of New York will have comprehensive coverage including primary, preventive, specialists, hospital, mental health, substance abuse treatment, reproductive health care, dental, vision, prescription drugs, and medical supplies, more comprehensive than commercial health plans. There will be no co-pays, deductibles or premiums

New York Health will be funded by a progressive graduated tax based on ability to pay, with the biggest share going to middle-class families. 98% of New Yorkers will pay less than they spend now. How can this be? Traditional Medicare spends 2% on over-

head, while for-profit insurance spends 18-20% on overhead. The New York Health Trust (like centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) won't require the costly paperwork our current multi-payer system uses to deny care through prior authorizations, benefit questions and appeals, intrusions into the doctor-patient relationship. And New York Health will negotiate drug prices for our 20 million residents — like NYS Medicaid that pays half of what Medicare seniors pay for drugs.

Currently in Westchester [40% of our property taxes](#) or \$276,000,000 a year pays for Medicaid. Since Medicare and Medicaid would be folded into one entity, the New York Health Trust, County governments would no longer be responsible for this cost. Counties would also benefit because employees would have their health insurance covered by the New York Health Act.

[NY Health Lobby Day is on June 5th](#) Join hundreds of citizens, doctors, nurses and healthcare workers who will gather in Albany to lobby for this bill. If you can't march, go to [nyhcampaign.org](#) and call your State Senator to support S.4840. Then vote in November for candidates who make New York Health part of their platform. Your vote may save your life savings — and your life.

Madeline Zevon



Important Dates (mark your calendar!)

LWV Westchester County Convention; **June 7**; Scarsdale Women's Club;
see LWVW.ORG for details

Annual Picnic; **Wednesday June 20**; Home of Dorothy and Jonathan Schere;
14 Winslow Road

LWV National Convention 2018 – **June 28 – July 1** in Chicago

Voter Registration @ WP July 4th Fireworks? **July 3rd**

Voter Registration @ Pleasantville Music Festival; Saturday **July 14th**

Naturalization Court, Thursday **August 9**

National Voter Registration Day; **September 25th**

Candidates Forum; **October 23rd**; White Plains Public Library auditorium; 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Naturalization Court, Thursday **October 4**

Election Day; **November 6th**

LWVWP Board meeting schedule

Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from September through June. For the 2018 – 2019 season all board meetings will be held in the community room on the first floor of the White Plains public library. Members of LWVWP are welcome to attend. If you are planning to attend let Stephen Cohen know (stephen435@optonline.net) so he can be sure to provide the agenda and meeting material. Scheduled meeting dates are as follows:

2018: 09/12; 10/10; 11/14; 12/12; **2019:** 01/09; 02/13; 03/13; 04/10; 05/08; 06/12



Membership Renewal Time!

Membership letters are going into the mail soon! Time to renew or join for 2018-2019. Support your League's work, and let us know how you'd like to get more involved in our committees and activities. Make a difference and have some fun!



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
P.O. BOX 2032
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10602-2032
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
 PRST STD
 WHITE PLAINS, NY
 Permit #235



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.