

League of Women Voters of Albany County Bulletin

April - May 2018

"Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy."

Issue 10, www.lwvalbany.org, Aimee Allaud & Marian Schwager, Bulletin Editors
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Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Policy on Inclusiveness

The League of Women Voters in both its values and practice is committed to inclusion and diversity. This means:

We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making;

We believe inclusiveness enhances our organization's ability to respond effectively to changing conditions and needs;

We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of Albany County; and

There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, ability

Come and Discover What the League Has to Offer



The good news is that the ranks of the Albany County League of Women Voters has markedly increased in the past 2 years. Many more citizens today tend to see their civic duties as a responsibility of living in a free and democratic society instead of the long held misconception that those duties are, at best, an inconvenience. Citizens that are appreciative of the rights that a democracy affords them are drawn to the League of Women Voters (LWV) in good times, and perhaps, even more so in times when our government institutions are being tested.

The less than ideal conditions we find our democracy under these days keeps the LWV extremely busy. So busy that new members are not as readily nurtured in their civic interests and not fully tapped into for the wealth of experiences and skills that would keep the League as vital and energized as it could be.

However, that is all about to change! Thus, the best news is that the League of Women Voters of Albany County invites all new members to a New Member Orientation Meeting!

**New LWV Member Orientation:
Saturday, April 14, 2018
Location: St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
440 Whitehall Road, Albany NY**

**Door opens at 9:30am for registration
Coffee, bagels, and fruit available
The meeting will begin
promptly at 10:00 am...end at 12 noon**

Come and discover what LWV has to offer! There are many opportunities for involvement and we will be featuring them on April 14th. Would you like to help at local candidates' forums as a moderator - or organize voter registration drives within various communities - or gather information for an online voter guide - or

, age, sexual orientation, creed or national origin.

President, Margaret Danes, stsophia@nycap.rr.com

Vice-President, Patricia Sibiliana, patriciasibiliany@gmail.com

2nd Vice President, Mary Beilby, mary.beilby@gmail.com

Secretary, Britt Westergard, britt_westergard@hotmail.com

Treasurer, Marggie Skinner, mpskinner3@yahoo.com

Directors
Communications: Aimee Allaud 85aimee@nycap.rr.com

Website/ Twitter:
Linda Ellen Brown, lindaellenbrown@gmail.com

Membership:
Paula Philo, paula.philo@gmail.com

At Large:
Susanna Martin, susannalmartin@gmail.com

At Large: Stephen Winters, sdoxie@aol.com.

A complete list of committee chairs is available on the LWVAC website, www.lwvvalbany.org, under Contact Us

Quick Links

[LWV of Albany Co.](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

Electronic Bulletin

MEMBERS can receive our Bulletin electronically or by US mail. If you wish to receive our Bulletin electronically, please send an email to bulletin editor, Aimee Allaud, 482-2617, or 85aimee@nycap.rr.com.

be at the polls on Election Day performing the important "poll reporting" function?

Would you like to help with publicity? Do you have social media skills? Or, would you rather assist in event planning and to organize LWV programs that benefit the community at large? Are you a social type that would love to learn the ropes to become an effective greeter in order to welcome and assist program attendees?

Maybe you would like to monitor the Albany County Legislature or Albany Common Council for reporting to our Board of Directors, or to advocate on the LWV positions one-on-one with State or local government representatives? Or, does conveying the importance of civic actions and responsibilities to youth and/or adults seem like an activity whose time has come and speaks to your heart?

We have something for various ranges of commitment, from monthly to intermittently to only once per year. We also are happy to take advantage of your skills, whatever you might like to offer. There are also opportunities to try out something new and different that would allow you to grow along with us. Whatever you choose, you will become better equipped to play a role in the national effort to maintain our democracy... and do so with an added sense of purpose while making new friendships that may last a lifetime.

We welcome you to come and meet fellow members and your Board of Directors - and begin to find your niche in the League. (You are a "new member" if you have joined the LWV between 2016 and the current month.) You are also welcomed to bring a guest... a friend or family member... as a prospective new member, too! And, remember... LWV is not just for women anymore!

Contact Paula Philo, paula.philo@gmail.com to RSVP prior to the April 14th meeting or for any questions!

LWVAC Board meetings are held monthly (see calendar) at St. Sophia's church, [440 Whitehall Road, Albany](#), call Margaret Danes, president, 489-4442, mdanes@nycap.rr.com.
Bulletin editors, Aimee Allaud, 85aimee@nycap.rr.com, and Marian Schwager, welcome comments and suggestions

League of Women Voters of NYS and League of Women Voters of NYS Education Foundation
[62 Grand Street, Albany, NY., 12207](#), Tel: 465-4162, www.lwvny.org, e-mail: lwvny@lwvny.org
Dare Thompson, President

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[1730 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036](#)-4508
Tel: [202-429-1965](tel:202-429-1965)-[202-429-1965](tel:202-429-1965), www.lwv.org
Chris Carson, President

President's Message

"You Must Be the Change You Wish To See in the World." Mahatma Gandhi

Yes, you, and me, and we. Together we can make a difference.

These are times for all of us to be more involved on a number of issues of great concern. It's not enough to be disgruntled or dismayed with the critical issues facing today's society. It's not even enough to be a "cheerleader" on the sidelines rooting for a good cause. It is not enough to wait for someone else to carry out the work. It is a time for each of us to take action.

We can take inspiration from the students in Parkland, Florida who are actively responding to the horrendous tragedy that occurred at their school. Not just candles and vigils, these kids are taking up the gauntlet by leading a nation-wide surge of support for greater gun safety. Through their use of social media, they have garnered a tremendous visual and "noisy" display of student rallies calling for efforts for more gun control and for greater safety in their schools. They have even traveled to address the Florida State Legislature to advocate for gun and school safety. These kids are a shining example of active and energized young people and our hopes for a better future.

However, we can do more than just praise the efforts of these young people. It is up to the rest of us to also rise to the challenges we face. The League of Women (and men) Voters offers each of us so many varied opportunities to be involved at the local, state, and national levels on important issues.

In this issue of the Bulletin we provide several ways for both new and old members to raise their level of involvement. With the title "Voters" in our name, it's not surprising that many of these efforts center on voting - registration events, candidate debates, educational forums, candidate information on the LWV website preceding each election and the like. We want more than just "voters"-we want "informed voters", voters who can make decisions based on factual data, not marketing slogans.

On April 14, we'll offer our many new members a New Member Orientation so that they can learn about these voter services plus many other volunteer opportunities. Information on this event is contained in the Bulletin but as President, I want to emphasize another critical need for participation - program development. Individuals are needed to develop programs for the upcoming year. The Bulletin contains an article describing topics of interest for each coming year. This helps us to create our advocacy agenda. The outcome is our local, public programs and related events.

League actions involve Observer Corps attendance at county, town and local government forums, state level lobbying on issues we advocate for, combined advocacy and public events with other community groups and outreach to new and potential voters through naturalization ceremonies and civic education. I hope existing members will continue to support these efforts through volunteering and that new members will be at the Orientation Meeting at St. Sophia Church on April 14 to discover how you can be part of the change you wish to see.

Margaret Danes, President

It's That Time of Year Again: Program Proposals Are Due!

Two months before the June annual meeting, League members are asked to contact Board members concerning their recommendations for our local program agenda. The list of areas we choose to monitor and advocate for helps frame both committee and public program agendas for the year. There are positions developed on many topics (59 at the National level!) which serve as foundations for state and local leagues to develop their activities. Each year we examine both National and state platforms and our local "hot issues" to propose our local programs. To prepare for the 2018-2019 local program list, we show below the 2017-2018 approved programs. This list can be re-proposed or modified and topics can be deleted or new topics added.

The 2017-2018 Local Programs:

*** Albany County Charter Review Study**

We continue following developments in Albany County concerning revisions to the Albany County Charter and take action to support the positions on it adopted by the Albany County League.

*** Environment**

We monitor proposals for landfills in Albany County, based on our existing four-county solid waste position with the recognition of responsible and sustainable use of natural resources by municipalities. The League will

monitor the environmental, public safety and health impacts associated with the transportation of crude oil shipments into the Port of Albany, and the extension of a natural gas pipeline into and through Albany County (New language to be added: although the extension has been suspended, it could be revived).

*** Long Term Care**

We continue monitoring long term care options and issues in Albany county.

If you have an idea and would like to discuss how it fits with LWV positions and potential study and action, please contact Mary Beilby, LWVAC Vice-President/Advocacy, mary.beilby@gmail.com, by April 15.

Call to Advocacy

Registering and educating voters are probably the most common reasons for joining the League of Women Voters. Equally important, however, is the League's mission to protect the right to vote and maintain democratic values. We recognize the need to monitor elected officials to protect such values as government ethics, equal rights, quality education, clean air and water and protection of natural resources. This year, LWVAC has been working with the NY State League and a coalition of good government groups to improve NY voters' participation by adopting early voting, automatic voter registration and reforms available in most other states. The Assembly has included funding for early voting in its budget but the Senate has yet to be convinced that NY must offer more than a single day to ballot. We will be calling Senators in the time before the final budget is adopted to achieve these reforms.

Many local Leagues have member groups who devote effort to advocacy in a more formal way by forming Advocacy committees, Observer Corps to observe and report on local government bodies, Natural Resources committees or other focused groups. LWVAC would like to identify members interested in advocacy. Except for endorsing individual candidates or contradicting national and state LWV positions, advocacy possibilities are practically limitless.

If you think you are interested in doing more in the area of advocacy, **attending the LWVNY Lobby Day on April 24th is a perfect opportunity.** Member will meet with their legislators in Albany. If you are interested in attending [sign up here!](#) Or print out and mail in [the form here](#). LWVAC will assist 5 members to attend by paying their registration fee. Contact Mary Beilby (see below) https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/i_ELcAUOhYyrY6YYjXYP0g.

If you are interested in learning more about advocacy and participating in this important League mission, please contact me at mary.beilby@gmail.com or phone [518-898-9449](tel:518-898-9449) so we can communicate about your interests and plan to move forward. Also, The April 14 New Member Orientation Meeting described in this Bulletin will feature advocacy activities.

Advocacy is a foundation for League actions. The LWVAC board will soon need to adopt our 2018-2019 proposed agenda of local programs for ongoing monitoring and advocacy . This Bulletin contains a description of the current local program plan and the need for member input on it. Reading it will give members insight into our advocacy areas.

Mary Beilby, Vice President for Advocacy

Albany County Legislative Update

Of note in the March legislative session:

Recognizing the "Albany County Legislative Black Caucus", composed of legislators who represent Majority-Minority Districts and members of color who share common interests in representing their districts and constituents.

Legislation now being considered includes:

- Local Law A - prohibiting the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies
- Local Law B-requiring electronic reporting of transactions of precious metal exchange dealers and secondhand dealers
- Local Law C - to provide access to paid sick time to qualified employees
- Local Law D - regarding the sustainable energy loan program
- Local Law E - to prohibit the use of conversion therapy for minors
- Local Law F - amending the charter to implement an anti-nepotism policy
- Resolutions 132 & 133-amending legislative rules of order pertaining to special committees on Elder Care and Court Facilities
- Resolution 134 - to initiate a pilot polystyrene recycling program

Patricia Sibilía, Vice-President and LWVAC County Legislature Observer Corps,
PatriciaSibilíaNY@gmail.com.

A warm welcome to our new since 2016 and returning members!

We look forward to getting to know you and to have you get to know us better at our New Member Orientation next month (April 14). Some of you are already very active with our voter services and programs. But of course, all of our activities have room for more participants

Michele and Michael Abrams	Cohoes	Suzanne Ayer	Castleton
Penny Gold and William Bailey	Ravena	Bertha Blowers	Glenmont
Janet Braga	Clarksville	Courtney Burke	Albany
Glen Charles	Colonie	Deb Dennis & Wendy Hord	Albany
Chris Deyss	Delmar	Donna DiBuono	Guilderland
Bonnie Eisenberg	Loudonville	Linda English	Guilderland
Emily Gallagher	Delmar	Joe Galu	Albany
Maureen Geis	Delmar	Lois Gundrum	Watervliet
Ginny Gutman	Albany	Susan Mitchell Herzfeld	Delmar
Liz Hutson	Malta	Kieran Johnson-Lew	Albany
Karen Kirstein	Schenectady	Elizabeth Kluz	Troy
Karen Lafreniere	Schenectady	Madeline LaMountain	Altamont
Susan Lawrence	Albany	Kathy Lloyd	Albany
Colleen Maloney	Selkirk	Carrie Manchester	Cohoes
Ellen Manning	Albany	Alicia Maynard	Albany
Mary McCarthy	Loudonville	Jen McCormick & Sophie Laforest	Delmar
Ann McGuinness	Selkirk	Gail Moon	Averill Park
Ann Mullaly	Delmar	Richard and Barbara Nussbaum	Delmar
Elena Oliver	Albany	Mary Kate Owens	Albany
Lorraine Plauth	Albany	Patricia Polan	Albany
Christine Primomo	Ravena	Judith Ratner	Albany
Deb Rausch	Latham	Richard Rifkin	Delmar
Daniel Sanders	Delmar	Susan Schmader	Albany
Sandra Shapard	Glenmont	Julie Shapiro	Albany
Susan Sheridan	Voorheesville	Barbara Sharenko	Glenmont
Emily Stewart	Delmar	Janet Strominger	Voorheesville
Ellen Sullivan	Albany	Missy Blowers Summerfield	Selkirk
Regina Tillman	Albany	Nancy Tudor	Clifton Park
Gail Volk	Delmar	Joseph Wade & Sara Kate Kanter	Schenectady
Linda Wagner	Albany	Thomas Welsh	Delmar
Susan Wood	Albany		

Calendar

- Apr 2, 6:30 LWVAC Board meeting, Albany Public Library [Delaware branch, 331 Delaware](#) (new location) Avenue, League members welcome, contact Margaret Danes, 489-4442.
- Apr 4, 6-8:30 pm LWVAC Volunteer Management Training, Gateway Diner, 899 Central Avenue, Albany, RSVP to Paula Philo, paula.philo@gmail.com.
- Apr 6, 8:30 am Naturalization and Voter Registration, Albany County Supreme Court House, entrance on Lodge Street, contact Julie Elson, jelson510@earthlink.net.
- Apr 13, 7:30 am Naturalization and Voter Registration, Federal Court House, Broadway, Albany. Contact Julie Elson, jelson510@earthlink.net.
- Apr 14, 9:30-12:00 LWVAC New Member Orientation, St. Sophia's Church, [440 Whitehall](#) Road, Albany, 12208, contact Paula Philo, paula.philo@gmail.com.
- Apr 24, 10:00-3:00 LWNYS Advocacy Training Day, NYS Museum, [222 Madison Avenue](#),
May 4, 7:30 am Naturalization and Voter Registration, see below for contact info.
- June 12, 5:30 pm Save the Date: LWVAC Annual Meeting
Century House, Latham, NY
- June 22, 8:30 am Naturalization and Voter Registration, Albany County Supreme Courthouse, (entrance on Lodge Street), Albany, contact Julie Elson, jelson510@earthlink.net.
- June 28-July 1 LWVUS 53rd National Convention, Chicago, Ill.
"Creating a More Perfect Democracy"



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Membership 2018-19 - Join & Make a Difference

Name: _____

Tel: _____ Address, City, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Individual Membership \$60/year Send me newsletters by mail

Household Membership \$90/year Just use my email for newsletters

Student Membership \$25/year Contribution in support of my local League

I'd like to join; this is the best I can do Please send me more information

tax deductible contribution to LWNYS Education Fund

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Albany County, PO Box 611, Slingerlands, NY 12159

Or join online at <http://www.lwvalbany.org/join-renew.html>

League of Women Voters of New York State

Advocacy Training/Lobby Day

Come learn about our advocacy agenda, hear directly from the Issue Specialists about our expected action for the 2018 Legislative Session and lobby your own legislators!

April 24, 2018

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

NYS Museum- Meeting Rms. A & B

Presenters will include:

Dare Thompson, LWVNYS President

Sally Robinson, LWVNYS VP for Advocacy

Jennifer Wilson, LWVNYS Legislative Director

Registration fee: \$20 (includes lunch)

To attend please complete the registration form below and return it with your registration fee

BY APRIL 13, 2018

Registration Info:

Name _____ League Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make appointments with my legislators for me
My Legislators are:

Senator Name _____ District# _____

Assemblymember Name _____ District# _____

Payment: Credit Card Check (made out to LWVNYS)

Card Number: _____

Exp Date: ____ / ____ Zip Code: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

RETURN TO:

Advocacy Training Day /LWVNYS
62 Grand Street** Albany, New York 12207

Fax: 518-465-0812 (Credit Card Registrations
ONLY)

E-Mail: lwny@lwny.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
518-465-4162

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