



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY
BULLETIN

**Citizenship
Mentoring Group**

The Citizenship Mentoring Group program is ready to open October 3! Our students are Legal Permanent Residents who are preparing for their US Citizenship Interview and Exam. A training session for program volunteers was held on Tuesday, September 19. We have a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who will be teaching classes, working one-on-one with students and/or will be holding English conversation groups to build confidence in listening to and speaking English.

Posters and flyers about the program have been distributed throughout the Schenectady library system, and Ann Hatke talked about the program to the adult ESL students at the Washington Irving Center on September 20.

October Events



Candidate Forums

Town of Niskayuna: October 19 at 7 PM, Niskayuna Town Hall.

Invited to speak are candidates for:
Schenectady County Legislature District 3 (3 seats);
Town Supervisor
Town Board (2 seats)

Town of Glenville: October 25 at 7 PM, Glenville Municipal Center.

Invited to speak are candidates for;
Schenectady County Legislature District 3 (3 seats)
Town Board (2 seats).

Town of Rotterdam: October 26 at 7 PM, Rotterdam Senior Citizen Center, 2639 Hamburg St., Rotterdam.

Invited to speak are candidates for:
Schenectady County Legislature Dist. 4 (2 seats)
Town Supervisor
Town Board (2 seats)
Receiver of Taxes.

President's Letter

We had a successful day of registering voters on National Voter Registration Day, September 26. League members were at a wide variety of locations, including colleges, supermarkets, libraries, food pantries, and more.

This is one of the League's most visible and most appreciated services to the public. It also provides a great opportunity for League members to contribute to the organization and to the community. Thank you for your help!

Candidate forums are another crucial service provided by the League and October is the month for forums (plus one forum that occurred on Sept. 27th for Schenectady City Council). There are many ways to help out at candidate forums- as moderator, timekeepers, question collectors (collect index cards with questions from the audience) and question checkers (consolidate questions on the same topic, weed out inappropriate questions).

With candidate forums for the City of Schenectady and Towns of Niskayuna, Glenville and Rotterdam, covering candidates for city, town and county offices, the assistance of many League members is needed.

Even more important than helping out at a candidate forum is encouraging friends and neighbors to attend the forum. Politicians are often charming when talking to individual voters and can tailor their answers to what they think the voter wants to hear. It's a very different situation, however, when a candidate appears at a public forum, being asked questions that are not known ahead of time and giving answers that are heard by a roomful of voters. It can be quite illuminating for the voter (and rather scary for the candidate!).

The State League of Women Voters has made a change in policy this year. Candidates running unopposed for office will not be allowed to participate in forums. Instead, they will be introduced from the audience and allowed to talk privately with voters at the end of the forum.

The State League believes in voter choice and nonpartisanship and decided that allowing the public to ask questions of unopposed candidates during the forum was, in effect, supporting that candidate.

We'll see how this works out in practice.

Cheryl Nechamen

Health Committee Meeting

The Health Committee will meet in Proctors Arcade on October 2nd at 10am. We will be discussing plans for this upcoming year as well as the concurrence planned for this winter on a position on "Death With Dignity". If you are interested in joining the committee call Carol Furman, 346-2746.

Voter Services October 2017

Voter Registration efforts continues in October. Look for us on:

- October 5: Price Chopper - Eastern Parkway, 12 Noon to 6 PM
- Price Chopper - Altamont Avenue, 12 Noon to 6 PM
- October 13: SCCC (Elston Hall) – 3 - 6 PM

October 13 is the deadline for registering to vote for the November 7, 2017 General Election.

Candidate Forums are listed on the front page.

In some municipalities there are additional candidates running for office unopposed. This year the LWV of NYS adopted a new policy for all candidate forums. This policy states that candidates for office that have no opposition should not be included in a candidate forum because this does not comply with regulations at the federal level that stipulate that providing a platform for a federal candidate to address the public is considered to be a contribution of “something of value”. The NYS LWV believes that the candidate forum policy at all levels of government should be consistent, and we are directed to comply.

The State League feels that the rationale that underlies the FCC prohibition on empty chair debates--- that such practice is tantamount to a contribution to the candidate who appears, applies as strongly to the state, county, or local level as it does to federal elections. The State League states that as long as there are 2 candidates for a race, they can appear at a candidate forum, but if only one candidate is in the race or if no opponents appear they should not participate in the forum. In addition the State League advised us that candidates with no opponents may attend the forum and be recognized and, although not allowed to speak at that time, can speak individually to the voters following the formal part of the event.

Our local board feels voters should have the opportunity to hear from all candidates to learn their positions on issues, however we also understand we are bound by state board mandates so we will comply. We will consider raising an objection with the state before the next election cycle.

Voter Resources: If you cannot attend the forums but wish to learn more about candidates backgrounds and positions on issues, there are several resources to use:

Public Access TV stations will be provided videos of candidate forums. Consult the stations for dates and times.

Vote411.org - Candidates for National, state and local offices have been invited to submit responses about their backgrounds and positions. You will find brief biographical information along with photos, experience and qualifications of each candidate running in your voting district. In addition, candidates will reply to pertinent questions in their own words.

This is a one-stop shop for nonpartisan election information. For Voters Guide Information specific to New York, go to www.lwvny.org and click on vote411.org.

Vote 411.org is scheduled to be published online by October 20th, in time for voters to be well informed on Election day.

For general information about registering, elections and voting you can contact:

NYS Board of Elections www.elections.ny.gov/info@elections.ny.gov 518-472-5086
Schenectady County Board of Elections www.voteschenectady.com 518-377-2469
LWV Schenectady County www.lwvschenectadycounty.org.

Kay Ackerman, Voter Services Chair

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empowering women
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Schenectady, NY 12305
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MEMBERSHIP

Our League goals are to educate citizens about government and public policy, encourage citizen participation in elections, and influence public policy relating to issues we've studied. Dues money makes working on our goals possible. **DUES for July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017** (half-year dues reduction is available. Contact Connie Young at 393-7061)

Return to: LWV of Schenectady County, P.O. Box 9135, Schenectady, NY 12309

New or Renewing Members Please Confirm this Contact Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ \$60 Individual _____ \$85 Household _____ \$20 Full-time student

_____ Additional support for the League, dues plus \$10 contribution (\$70 or \$95 – circle one)

(Confidential arrangements for special payment or partial assistance can be made. Contact Connie Young at 393-7061 with any questions. Dues and contributions are not tax deductible.)

.....

_____ *I am sending my membership dues payment, but please consider me an **INACTIVE** member.*

.....

ACTIVE MEMBERS: The League depends upon the work of its members, even for a short task. Please check any activities that interest you. We appreciate your help.

Committees: Judicial _____ Health _____ Membership _____ Fundraising _____ Environment _____

Observer Corps _____ Education _____ Voter Services Voter Registration _____ Candidate Forums _____

Voter Information _____ Computer Skills Graphics/Layout _____ Databases _____

Website Work _____ Facebook _____ Electronic Publicity _____ Other Technical Skill? (Describe) _____

League Luncheon

At the League of Women Voters Luncheon on Wednesday, September 13, Natalie Schubel, the Public Health Education Coordinator for Schenectady County Public Health Services offered the attendees definitions for the terms food insecurity and food desert and what these terms mean in the city of Schenectady.

She discussed relevant data as they relate to both terms. She also presented the attendees with a sense of the ways that food pantries operate and a general sense of where they are located in the city. She described what is being done to increase access such as the increase in the hours and the provision for transportation. She encouraged the attendees to become involved with the food pantries and offered ways that they could do so.



League Day at the United Nations

A Briefing on Forced Labor and Human Trafficking

Nov. 16, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
(lunch and tours available, too, starting at 11:30 am)

The Annual League Day at the United Nations (NYC) will be held on Thursday, November 16. We will again offer a delicious lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room, tours of the facility (General Assembly room, Security Council room, etc) and then a briefing. This year we will have a panel of UN experts discuss the issue of Forced Labor and Human Trafficking. The panel will also discuss what individuals can do to help reduce this problem.

The State League will also be offering a group bus option from Albany to NYC with a stop in Poughkeepsie.

Register on line at www.lwvny.org

Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. We work to increase the understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.




**Suzanne Hartz
Stephen Hartz**

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374-6647
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Sat 8 a.m. to Noon

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New Members

Cindy Weissen

Cindy is a registered nurse with the State Office of People with Disabilities. She was inspired by the recent presidential election to participate in the "Women's March in Washington" and to join LWV.

Her LWV interests include training for the Citizenship Mentoring Program and the Observer Corps

Cindy is involved in the Greyhound Dog Rescue Program. She is also an avid knitter.

Roberta Roessie

Roberta recently retired from Farm Family Insurance as a computer programmer. She has volunteered for the LWV Citizenship Mentoring Program and voter registration. Roberta is also a volunteer for the Reading for Fun Program in local schools.

Riley Hart

Riley is the daughter of long time LWV member Emily Hart. She was formerly employed at MIT's Human Resource Department working on data systems. Her LWV interests are the Citizen Mentoring program and voter registration.

Her hobbies include kayaking and Improv theater with MOPCO (The Mop and Bucket Company).

THE POWER OF AWARENESS: "Empowering All Through Education"

The League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation is the educational and fund-raising arm of The League of Women Voters of New York State which derives its strength from the energy and commitment of the women and men in about 60 local Leagues throughout the state. It is strictly nonpartisan, and works primarily on projects that enlighten the electorate i.e., empower through education.

The charitable support of individual people, corporations and foundations throughout New York State help us accomplish three central missions:

- *Educate people on the importance of their participation in government, in the political process and, most importantly, in the life of their home community.

- *Create awareness of the issues at the local, state and national levels and what average citizens can do to have an impact on their government.

- *Instill in young people and new citizens the knowledge of their role and responsibilities in managing their own government.

Votes for Women!

Reading & Discussion Group

2017 marks the Centennial of Women’s Suffrage in New York State, and this fall, we're exploring the subject with a reading and discussion group.

Join Union College Professor Andrea Foroughi as she leads the group through six evenings of book discussion. The book selections include history, biography, and fiction, and provide a window into this chapter of American social progress and a springboard into ongoing discussions of women's history.

The discussion group will meet Thursdays October 12 & 26, November 2, 16, & 30, and December 14.

Participation is free (though a refundable deposit to borrow the books is required), and light refreshments will be served. The meetings start at **6:30 pm**.

For more details on the book selections, please visit Humanities New York. <http://www.schenectadyhistorical.org/http://www.schenectadyhistorical.org/>

Mary Zawacki
Executive Director
Schenectady County Historical Society | Mabee Farm Historic Site
518-374-0263 x 4

An Evening Celebrating Votes for Women Exhibit The LWV of NYS Education Foundation & The NYS Archives Partnership Trust

Invite you to a special evening reception celebrating the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote in New York Sate and the opening of the State Museum’s Votes for Women Exhibit

Nov4, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

NYS Museum

Join us for a reception celebrating the opening of this exhibit. Colin Jenkins, great, great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, will speak about growing up in a family of women activist. In addition to Stanton, her great grandmother Harriot Shanton Blatch, worked as a major organizer of New York State woman suffrage during the Militant Period of 1913-1915. Her grandmother, Nora Stanton Blatch DeForest Barney, was the first female civil engineer to graduate (1905) from Cornell. Jenkins’ mother was born one month prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment of the US Constitution in 1920. Jenkins grew up in an atmosphere of suffrage and women’s right campaigning. Call the state League office at 518-465-4162 to purchase tickets by phone or register at the league website.

President	Cheryl Nechamen	518 346-4820
Vice-President	Joan Elliott	518 346-4414
Secretary	Ann Hatke	518 346-1584
Bulletin Editor	Helen MacDonald	518 346-7006

League of Women Voters
of Schenectady
County
P.O. BOX 9135
Schenectady, NY 12309

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Take Me To Vote

The Take Me To Vote program will again be offered this election season to the children in the elementary schools of Schenectady County. We hope that giving the children the experience of going with a parent to their polling place will give them a sense of participation in the voting process and will perhaps imbue them with a feeling of pride in their rights as a citizen.

Volunteers are needed to distribute maps of the voting districts and bags of Take Me to Vote tickets to the elementary schools. The materials need to be at the schools by the first week of November. If you are able to deliver a map and small bag of tickets to one or more of these schools please call Connie Young 393-7061 or email: cyoung50@nycap.rr.com.

