

# Update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE COOPERSTOWN AREA

April 2024

## Call To 2024 LWVCA Annual Meeting 2024

Mark your calendar for the LWV of the Cooperstown Area's 2024 Annual Meeting and Potluck on Wednesday, May 1, at 6 p.m. at the Clark Sports Center. Join your fellow League members as we recap our year and celebrate all we have accomplished since April 2023.

At the meeting, members will also elect new board members and officers, vote on bylaws changes, pass a budget, and review our programs for the upcoming year.

The meeting is a potluck, so please bring your place setting and a dish to pass. Members with last names beginning A-J should bring a salad or side; J-T bring a main dish; and U-Z, bring a dessert. We will have various beverages to share, but you are welcome to bring your favorite beverage.

### Business Meeting

Inside this issue you will find a copy of our Annual Report for 2023-2024 which contains all the materials you will need to prepare for the meeting: Nominating Committee Report, Financial Report, and Bylaws Changes, as well as reports from various committees. The Annual Report as well as the meeting agenda and other materials will also be available on our website in the members only section.

Bring your laptop or other device to the meeting so you can access the report and the agenda during the meeting if you wish.

You will note that there are two financial reports. Last year members agreed to change our fiscal year to match the LWWNY and LWWUS. This change means two budgets: one for the three months from April 1, 2024 to June 31, 2024, and another to cover July 1, 2024 to June 31, 2025.

The bylaws change is an addition to the current bylaws. On occasion, the LWVCA board conducts votes by email or phone. This bylaws change codifies the practice and includes a provision that the board evaluate the procedure each year. The detailed budgets will be available on our website.

Finally, the nominating committee is recommending Christina Bourgeois as co-president. Christina has been serving as head of Natural Resources. This marks the fifth year of the LWVCA's plan of having two co-presidents who serve overlapping terms. The board will also be saying farewell to Maureen Murray who is leaving as co-president and leaving the board. Maureen was one of the leaders who became the glue that held our League together during some of the most trying times of our League's history.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE ONEONTA AREA

## LWV Oneonta and Hartwick Institute of Public Service to Host Discussion on Otsego County's Future

The LWV Oneonta and the Institute of Public Service at Hartwick College are inviting county residents to "Challenges Facing Otsego County Take Action Locally" on Tuesday, April 9, at 6 p.m. The event will feature Dr. Alexander Thomas, professor of Sociology at SUNY Oneonta and the Executive Director of the SUNY PLACES Institute. Dr. Thomas will discuss regional demographic and economic changes, such as de-industrialization and rural out-migration—population loss in rural areas—and how to address these challenges. Edward Frazier, newly elected chair of the Otsego County Board of Representatives will take part in the discussion following Dr. Thomas's presentation.

The Hartwick Institute of Public Service, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization institute, seeks to educate the next generation of public servants and inspire legal professionals and government officials to meaningfully engage in our democracy through three supporting areas: Local and State Government, Civic Engagement, and Legal Education.

PLACES is short for "Program for Local Area Community and Environmental Science" and is an official research center of SUNY Oneonta charged with coordinating and conducting research as a service to the Greater Oneonta region. Since its inception, the institute has sought to build internal and external linkages between faculty and organizations relevant to our efforts.

"The Oneonta League is very pleased to be a partner in this event," says LWV Oneonta Team Leader Stephanie Bauer. "These are issues that will affect this area for generations to come, and have indeed already affected the lives of many who would like to continue to live and work in this area. Coming together as a community to dig deeper into the "whys" of what is happening to our community is the first step to a real solution."

The event will take place at Shineman Chapel House on the Hartwick College campus. A reception will follow.

# Spring is Here! Time for Annual Meeting

Even though there is currently a half foot of snow on the ground, we want to wish you all a happy spring! There are several events we want to make sure you're aware of. First, our Annual meeting—we really encourage you to attend. Long-time members know what fun it is to gather as a group and see old friends. And if you have not attended before, it's a great opportunity to connect with other members and get fired up for the 2024 election season. Read the story on page 1.

While you're on page 1, read about the meeting on April 9 at Hartwick College's Institute of Public Service. The event is a collaboration of LWV Oneonta and the College's Institute of Public Service. It should be a thought-provoking discussion.

We hope you all voted in the April 2nd presidential primaries. Two more election dates to keep in mind. Area school districts have their Board of Education and budget votes on May 21, and New York State primary is on June 25.

Speaking of election season, the Otsego County Board of Elections is always looking for election inspectors (formerly known

as "poll workers"). There will be a series of trainings offered May 13-16. Contact the BOE at 607-547-4247 or boe@otsegocounty.com for more information.

Finally, as many of your know, Dr. Deborah Turner, President of the LWVUS, passed away in January. We will miss her leadership.

*Maureen* *Kristin*

MAUREEN MURRAY & KRISTIN PULLYBLANK,  
CO-PRESIDENTS



Co-presidents Kristin Pullyblank (l) and Maureen Murray (r).

A Postscript.

I want to say thank you to my co-president, Maureen. A member for more than 40 years, she has served off and on for 30 plus years as a member the Board of the League of Women Voters of the Cooperstown Area. Maureen, you have been a fabulous mentor for those of us who are newer to the Board and to the League. I have so enjoyed working with you over the past year and I will miss your thoughtfulness, keen sense of humor and tremendous perseverance. While you may be leaving our Board, I know your involvement in both the League and in the larger Cooperstown community continues. Keep doing great things!

*Kristin*

## Deborah Turner, M.D., J.D. (1950-2024)

The League of Women Voters lost an outstanding leader in January. Deborah Turner, MD, JD, the 20th president of the LWVUS and chair of the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters Education Fund died on January 28, 2024. She had been elected board president at the 55th National Convention of the League of Women Voters in June 2022.



Deborah Turner

Dr. Turner knew what it meant to be "in League." She joined her local Des Moines, Iowa, League in 2010 when that League was under threat of disbanding—a situation not unlike our own League at about that time. While undertaking that effort, she also joined the LWV Iowa Board, eventually becoming co-president of the LWV Iowa. She was elected president of the LWVUS in 2022.

Dr. Turner received her BS from Iowa State University and her MD from the University of Iowa where she completed her Residency in OB-Gyn. Turner was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2013 and received the Gertrude Rush Award from the National Bar Association in 2015. Her most treasured award is a certificate from the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Care.

LWVCA's Maureen Murray and Patty MacLeish attended the 2022 convention and were both impressed by Dr. Turner's leadership. "I was very proud to have Dr. Turner serving as the leader of an organization I care so very much about," said Patty. "She was a remarkable woman and dedicated to the League. Maureen and I were able to see her leadership skills in action even though we were attending convention virtually. She made her presence felt."

## Students Inside Albany 2024

The LWVCA is pleased to announce the selection of two delegates to the annual Students Inside Albany (SIA) conference in Albany: Pauline (Polly) Kennedy, a junior at Cooperstown Central School and Ava Calhoun, a senior at Cherry Valley Springfield. The League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. sponsors one delegate from each League in the state to the program; the LWVCA has sponsored a second student for the past several years.



Ava Calhoun (above) and Polly Kennedy (left), the 2024 SIA delegates.



In Albany delegates from across the state will have an up-close look at their state government. The program is designed to increase high school students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide information about the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. This year's conference will take place May 19-22.

While at the conference, students will participate in a series of interactive lectures on topics such as the state budget process, the role of lobbyists in the legislative process, citizen rights to access government information, the role of media in politics, and the move to reform state government. While in Albany, the students will tour the state's Capitol. The highlight

*continued next page*



ing rights; encourage participation in government; review the LWV Cooperstown Area education positions to explore the need for an update. Members also agreed to engage in a small activity related to the decline of local news media. We also agreed to continue our commitment to: Environment/Natural Resources; Love Your Oneonta League, Students Inside Albany, Reducing Polarization and our Observer Corp.

## Want to learn a new skill or share a skill?

- Did you read our Guest Editorial in the *Freeman's Journal* about the Observer Corps? Please join us in this endeavor that promotes good government. Volunteers are needed to cover village, town and county government. Contact Deb Dalton (ddalton@stny.rr.com) to learn more.
- As election season approaches, we will be needing more volunteers to help with get out the vote events, voter registration drives, candidates' debates, and VOTE411 our electronic voters guide. Some of the jobs are one-time efforts (like greeting people at a candidates' debate)

and others are a longer commitment (like working with VOTE411). Think about how much time you can give, and contact Hudi Poldolsky (hudi.podolsky@gmail.com) for more information.

## Coming Up

- April 9 "Challenges Facing Otsego County: Take Action Locally" on Tuesday, April 9, Shineman Chapel, Hartwick College, 6 p.m. Story page 1.
- April 18 Carbon Neutral NY: Where Are We NOW? 7:00 pm on Zoom. See story on page 3.
- April 22 Petitions due for School Board Candidates.
- May 1 LWV Cooperstown Area Annual Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Clark Sports Center.
- May 21 Local School District Elections for School Board and District Budget Vote. Check [www.lwvcoopersownarea.org](http://www.lwvcoopersownarea.org) for information on candidates' debates.
- June 25 Presidential Primary. Polls open 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

## Officers & Board of Directors 2023-2024

### Board Members

**Treasurer:** Susan Newman, suchasshn@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Laura Wetzel, ltanswetz@gmail.com, 847-650-9235

**Voters Service:** Hudi Podolsky, hudi.podolsky@gmail.com

**Membership:** Deb Dalton: ddalton@stny.rr.com, 607-437-5761

**Environment/Natural Resources:** Christina Bourgeois 607-544-4072

**Newsletter/Communications:** Patty MacLeish, pmacleish@verizon.net;

Contact: Newsletter@LWVCooperstownArea.org; Facebook: [www.facebook.com/LWVoftheCooperstownArea](http://www.facebook.com/LWVoftheCooperstownArea)

[www.LWVCooperstownArea.org](http://www.LWVCooperstownArea.org)

**Co-presidents:** Maureen Murray, 607-547-2853; coopmurray@msn.com and Kristin Pullyblank, 607-437-7526; kpullyblank@gmail.com

401-835-0162

**Youth Programs:** September Schecter, sann8042@gmail.com

**Off-Board:**

**Students Inside Albany:** Maria Kaltenbach: 315-525-5410;

margirlic@yahoo.com

**Reducing Polarization Project:**

Join us for our 2024 Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 1, 6-8 p.m. Clark Sports Center.

Cooperstown, NY 13326  
PO Box 426

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