



November, 2022

Letter from the President

Hello, LWVSC Friends,

Finally, the month we have been waiting for with much anticipation – November – and specifically November 8. I think we're all tired of hearing about voter fraud (virtually non-existent), vote-stealing (again, unproven), and voter intimidation and disenfranchisement (both definitively documented), and we are certainly ready and hoping to see the best in our democracy at work in our upcoming election.

However, I don't want to talk so much about the election, but how our League prepared for it. Instead, I'd like to talk about our Voter Services team who've been working diligently since last spring to make sure our community is ready to vote on November 8.

I'd like to first thank Cheryl Nechamen, our Voter Services chair, who pulled her group together and laid out the groundwork for this election season. This includes voter registration, candidate forums, participation with other capital region Leagues, and getting out the vote. Pauline Kinsella made sure we made it a priority to bring the election closer to everyone in her get-out-the-vote efforts. When you see one of the many blue League signs around town, that's Pauline's doing.

Connie Young made the arrangements with organizations and places where we could register voters, hold forums, and provide needed voter information, and Mary Jane Shave created a spreadsheet to keep our volunteers organized and ready to go. Sandra McGarraugh took on the task of organizing our candidate forums – a huge job of wrangling candidates, finding volunteers, and making sure the forums went off without a hitch.

And to all our many volunteers, you were our "boots on the ground" making sure we got as many new voters registered and had the information they needed to vote, and helping to keep our forums well-staffed and successful. My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and restful Thanksgiving holiday...

In League,

Ann Hatke

Voter Services Report

Voter Services

Voter Registration

Voter registration has wrapped up for 2022 and we had a successful year. We held voter registration drives at 17 locations and collected 62 completed forms and handed out another 48. We had many dedicated volunteers involved in these voter registration events and we're thankful for each and every one of you!

Candidate Forums

Voter Services has been busy collaborating with our fellow Capital District Leagues (Albany, Saratoga and Rensselaer) to hold virtual candidate forums for election districts that cross county lines. That's the case for all of the State Assembly and Senate Districts and the 20th Congressional District in our area.

Check out our Facebook page (League of Women Voters- Schenectady County) and our website (<https://my.lwv.org/new-york/schenectady-county>) for links to these recorded forums.

Cheryl Nechamen, Chair



<i>President</i>	<i>Ann Hatke</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>OPEN</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Heide Westergaard</i>
<i>Bulletin Editor</i>	<i>Nicole Salamone</i>



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.

“Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy”

It was Cocktail Time
for LWVSC!

October 11, 2022



Thirty-three Schenectady League members gathered on October 11 to meet in person for the first time in several years. Our cocktail party was held in the Governor's Room at the Mohawk Golf Club. It was wonderful to see familiar faces, listen to the lovely music played by Trio Capriccio, and catch up on the news. Not to mention the delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails! We VOTE to have another party soon.

VALE CEMETERY EST. 1857

A NON-DENOMINATIONAL HISTORIC RURAL CEMETERY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM
LISTED ON NYS + NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER • CERTIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT • LEVEL 1 ARBORETUM

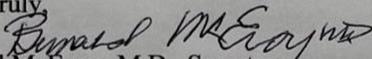
October 12, 2022

League of Women Voters
PO Box 9135
Schenectady, New York 12309

Dear League of Women Voters:

Please get the word out to your members of the AAUW that Vale Cemetery is sponsoring a public tour about Notable Schenectady Women buried in Vale on Sunday, November 6 at 2 P.M. It is by air conditioned or heated bus and is rain or shine. A\$7 donation is optional. Children are free. The bus leaves from the Caretaker's house, 907 State Street. The Tour Guide is Sue McLane, a Suffrage expert, who appears professionally as the **Victorian Lady**, at tea parties and Victorian events. She is an expert on Victorian clothing and mourning customs. She has been a costume consultant to movies. Grave sites to be visited include a female WWII aviator, Schenectady's 1st. female physician, the niece of Hawaii's last queen, the founders of the Brown School and Day Nursery. Sir William Johnson's son's mistress, the founder of the International Institute of Interior Design and members of the Underground Railroad and others. For more information, call 518-346-04231

Yours truly

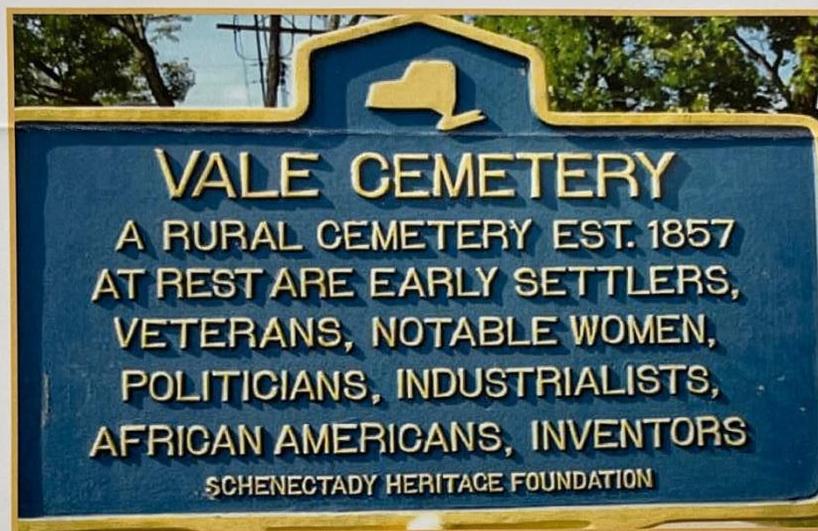

Bernard McEvoy, M.D., Secretary
Vale Cemetery



VALE CEMETERY

907 STATE STREET, SCHENECTADY, NY 12307
PH: (518) 346-0423 FAX: (518) 346-0431
E-MAIL: VALE@VALECEMETERY.ORG

Notable Women at Vale Sunday November 6th, 2022



Sue McLean, a notable woman in her own right, a leading historical authority on women's suffrage, and the woman's role in Victoria times. She will recount the life, careers, and the times of Schenectady's first woman physician, a pioneer, aviator, the founders of Brown School and the Schenectady Day Nursery, a poet, Sir William Johnson's son's consort, the niece of the last queen of Hawaii's last queen, an Underground Railroad activist, and several other fascinating historical women figures.

RAIN OR SHINE

Location: Meeting at the Caretaker's House, 907 State Street.

Donation \$7 for adults: free for children under age 12.

Handicap accessible.

Tour is by air conditioned bus.

Please call 346-0423 for further information



STATE VOTER

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy
October 2022



President's Message

Judie Gorenstein, judieL728@aol.com

Voter services are the foundation of the League. Registering women to vote was the reason we were formed. Although we do so much more today, voter services remain at the core, what we are known for and that which we hold the gold standard. Election Day, is only two weeks away and there is only a few days before early voting begins in NY. I know that league members throughout the state have worked to register voters, educate voters, and then to get out the vote. I know we have all been doing our best. I know you all will be voting but, in these final days, I urge you to continue to do what you can to get others to vote.

Thank you all for all you do and for being a member of the LWV. Together we will work on protecting our democracy!



Lawn Signs

Want a sign to post in your lawn to encourage people to vote! We have them at \$5 each plus tax and shipping. Email Aimee@lwvny.org and tell her how many and where to ship them. We can invoice you or your League later. Do it now!

Take Action on the NYS Environmental Bond Act!

On October 11th, the state League in coordination with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. hosted a presentation and panel on The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act with speakers from the Nature Conservancy, WeAct, and the Northeast Region of the International Union of Operating Engineers. In total, we had over 200 people attend the event to learn more about this historic environmental act. The League of Women Voters of NYS supports The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act and encourages voters to vote yes on Proposition #1. The recording of the webinar and the Powerpoint used in the presentation are posted on the Voting page of the state website: <https://lwvny.org/voting/>

Below are a few important campaign updates:

Toolkits

Here is the link for two toolkits and another folder with easy to use materials:

Toolkit 1: <https://bit.ly/3LXMR7d>

Toolkit 2: <https://bit.ly/3CcAeAX>

Materials: <https://bit.ly/3dRonjw>

Videos, Social Media, and News Coverage

Share and post information from the bond act social media platforms:

- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nybondact>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NYBondAct>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nybondact/>

You can view & share the video spots "[C- grade](#)" and "[100 years](#)" on YouTube.

Please reach out to Erica at erica@lwvny.org if you or your League has spent substantial funds to advertise this campaign (ex. printing).

Feel free to circulate the above information to members of your League and please let me know if you have any questions!



Voter Services

Nancy Rosenthal, VP for Voter Services, nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com

Tuesday November 8th is almost here; we are running the last mile of the GOTV marathon! We are not done yet! Hydrate and nourish yourself; our efforts these last days are critical! Encourage all to vote!

Early Voting: Oct. 29 to Nov. 6

Election Day: Nov. 8

**To find your early voting poll site and election day poll site,
go to <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>**

or

www.vote411.org

Issues and Advocacy

Sally Robinson, VP for Issues and Advocacy,

Sally.s.robinson@gmail.com

Erica Smitka, Deputy Director, Erica@lwvny.org

Election Protection Education

As we near the mid-term elections, an increasing number of conversations have focused on election security and ensuring that NYS is holding fair and reliable elections. This week, the state League has launched an education campaign in which we provide local Leagues and members with materials that detail how NYS runs secure, reliable, and fair elections. These



materials can be used as talking points with other voters and we encourage you to help educate your neighbors on the secure election system.

[Click here for a one page Election Security flyer](#)
[Click here for Election Processing in NYS flyer](#)

NYS Supreme Court Decision on Absentee Ballots

As some of you may have read, on Friday October 21 a New York state trial judge issued a ruling in *Amedure v. New York* a lawsuit challenging aspects of absentee voting laws in New York. The ruling does NOT in any manner impact the ability of a voter to obtain or cast an absentee ballot. The only impact is on one aspect of the absentee ballot counting and challenges law and the decision is being appealed. You can read the full decision here: <https://www.democracydocket.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022-10-21-140-Decision-and-Order43.pdf>

PowHer Summit

The state League along with a number of local league members and organizations from across the state took part in the PowHer Summit on October 13th. After the Summit, the state League hosted a PowHer Talk in which we focused on the role of the League in ensuring women's equity in NYS. One of the ways in which we will do this is with a focus on the second passage of the New York State Equal Rights Amendment in this legislative session.

Automatic Voter Registration and Online Voter Registration

The state League has been meeting with the State Board of Elections along with the Brennan Center, Citizens Union, Common Cause, NALEO, Brooklyn Voters Alliance and other good government groups to discuss the planned implementation of automatic voter registration and online voter registration in New York State. We have been meeting with the state Board to discuss the timeline for implementation, how to test the system, and to ensuring the board has feedback from our organizations as it relates to the needs of voters.



LWV and the United Nations

Jane Colvin (LWVNYS Board Member), janeolvin914@aol.com

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. The 17 Goals were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which set out a 15-year plan to achieve the Goals. Today, progress is being made in many places, but, overall, action to meet the Goals is not yet advancing at the speed or scale required. 2020 needs to usher in a decade of ambitious action to deliver the Goals by 2030.

While the 17 SDGs are closely integrated - action in one area will affect outcomes in others – the one that has received the most widespread attention – deservedly so - is #13 Climate Action. SDG 13 aims to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact,” recognizing it as “one of the greatest challenges of our time.”

Climate change is affecting everything and everybody on Earth. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives. Weather patterns are changing, global temperatures are increasing, sea levels are rising, and weather events are becoming more extreme. All life on Earth – from ecosystems to human civilization – is vulnerable to a changing climate.

To stave off the worst consequences of climate change, the UN is calling for immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep them from increasing which means reducing civilization’s carbon foot prints. Our National and State Leagues have been at the forefront with positions, advocacy, and legislative priorities in support of climate change solutions. We as individuals can do a lot, too.

Our lifestyles have a profound impact on our planet and our choices matter. Around two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to private households. From the electricity we use, to the food we eat, the way we travel, and the things we buy, individuals can make a difference.

Culled from the many UN and Green organization online resources, [click here to view 6 ways to reduce your carbon footprint.](#)



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. Membership makes working on our goals possible.

Membership for JULY 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

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 HS 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 questions about dues or payments. Dues and contributions are not tax deductible.

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

