

Letter from the President - March 2024

Dear LWWSC Friends,

I'm writing my letter in the last days of February during Black History Month, and you will be reading it in March, Women's History Month. Each month has its own special holidays, commemorations, and events. I'm going to bridge both months and talk a little about the role of Sojourner Truth in the formation of the National Council of Women of the U.S.

The National Council of Women was founded in March 1888, only a few years after the death of Sojourner Truth in 1883. Through her work as an abolitionist and fighter for the civil rights of both Black and Female populations, her extensive lecture tours, and her autobiography, *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*, she became acquainted with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. By the 1870's and early 1880's, Stanton and Anthony were both at work trying to establish an organization for women. This organization became the National Council for Women and was established by Anthony, Stanton, Clara Barton, and Julia Ward Howe. Many references refer to Sojourner Truth as one of the founding members as well because of her influence on these women and the early women's movement.

The NCW/US is the oldest, non-sectarian organization for women, and encouraged all women's organizations to join them from their beginning. Their mission stated:

We, women the United States of America, believe that the best good of humanity will be advanced by efforts toward greater unity of sympathy and purpose, and that a voluntary association of individuals so united will best serve the highest good of the family, the community, and the state, do hereby band ourselves into a *federation of all races, creeds, and traditions, to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom, and the law.*



As we move towards our vote on the NYS Equal Rights Amendment in November, let's celebrate all that has been accomplished by these and other women who came before us, working towards true equality in the United States and beyond.

In League,
Ann Hatke

Voter Services Report

Meeting with Board of Elections

Ann Hatke and I had a productive meeting with the Board of Elections (BOE) on February 6th. The Republican and Democratic Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners were all there.

The BOE goes into most of the high schools in Schenectady County to talk about voting. To make the presentations interesting, the BOE holds an election to determine the students' favorite ice cream.

We discovered that the BOE has also been excluded from county-held ceremonies recognizing naturalized citizens- we had thought it was only the League that was excluded. They weren't sure that voter registration forms were even being distributed at the ceremonies. Definitely time to meet with the County Legislature!

The BOE agreed to give us a list of all newly registered voters to aid in our Get Out the Vote efforts. We hope to contact people to encourage them to vote.

Ann asked the Commissioners whether they would be interested in presenting a program, sponsored by the League, about voting, perhaps with a focus on election integrity. They were quite receptive to the idea and thought September would be a good time, when voters are more focused on the upcoming election.

Voter Registration

We have new additions to our voter registration schedule. We have drives scheduled for the Schenectady Greenmarket on 3/24, Fulton-Montgomery Community College on 3/26 and 4/30 and the Kids Arts Festival on 6/1. We're also expecting to do a voter registration event at SUNY Schenectady soon. Sign up at [Voter Registration](#).

Cheryl Nechamen
Voter Services Chair

Baffling Barbie

Feminist Friend
or Foe?



Saturday, March 9, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Clifton Park - Halfmoon Public Library

475 Moe Road, Clifton Park, NY

One of the most controversial and influential dolls in history turns 65 on March 9. Love her or hate her, Barbie has made her mark, like so many provocative women! The Barbie movie has re-ignited and re-defined opinions about her influence. This lively and fun event will feature:

- **Barbie movie clips**
- **Presentation by Rosemary Armao,**
*investigative reporter, podcaster, and professor at UAlbany.
Formerly heard on WAMC.*
- **Panel on the impact of Barbie on four generations**
- **Audience participation: How did Barbie influence YOU?**
- **Curated displays of Barbie dolls**

Bring your daughters!

Kens welcome!

*Brought to you by the League of Women
Voters of Saratoga County*

Lwvsaratoga.org



<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”

We have been invited to join **THE WALK WITH WOMEN**
Sunday, March 3 at 9:00 am - 11:00 am



This event is being organized by Cora Schroeter, the daughter of one of our long-time members, **Helga Schroeter**. Please wear your League t-shirt or button and bring a banner or sign if you'd like.

SIA – An introduction to Civic Engagement

The annual Students Inside Albany (SIA) is a conference sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. The SIA Program provides high school students across New York State with an extraordinary opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge about our state government. The upcoming 24th annual program is scheduled from May 19-22, 2024.

While at the conference students from across the state will join their peers in the experience of learning about the function of the New York state government. They 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, and media in politics. Additionally, students will also tour the Capitol and observe both the Senate and Assembly in action by spending an afternoon shadowing their legislators (Senators and Assembly Member).

The League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc (LWVNYSEF), sponsors one student delegate from each League in New York. However, Local Leagues have the option of funding an additional student and the LWV in Schenectady County has traditionally sponsored two students. The LWVNYSEF, pays for the entire conference (for one student), which includes lodging, meals and snacks. The conference starts on a Sunday afternoon and ends on Wednesday afternoon. Therefore, the student will miss up to three days of school. Each year students are invited from all high schools within Schenectady County. Last year (2023), the LWV in Schenectady County was represented by two students from Niskayuna School High School. The 2024 representative were chosen from four applicants from Schenectady and Niskayuna High Schools.

The two students who will represent the LWV in Schenectady County at this year's SIA Conference this year are **Sheyenne Harris and Pratiksha Gangadin (Sami)**, both from Schenectady High School.

Sheyenne is a senior who was highly recommended by her Math teacher and the National Honor Society Advisor. Throughout her time at Schenectady High School, Sheyenne has taken some of our most challenging courses, including Honor courses, College Credit Courses, and International Baccalaureate Courses. Outside of school, Sheyenne has many extracurricular activities as well. For example, she spends her time volunteering at the Schenectady Inner City Ministry food pantry and Fehr Farm, in an effort to provide food to the neediest within her community. Additionally, Sheyenne has been working with the Urban League to bring awareness about inequity and inequality in low-income communities. Sheyenne stated, "The Urban League has also allowed me to dwell on other important subjects such as academic inequity and inequality and voting among first-generation American citizens." Sheyenne will attend Union College with a major in Political Science.

Sami was recommended by her School Counselor, who stated that she is delighted to recommend Pratiksha Gangadin (Sami) as a candidate for the Student Inside Albany Conference. She states that Sami consistently excels in academics, but always shows the initiative to go above and beyond to seek out opportunities for growth. Sami is a student in the district's Early College in the High School (ECHS) program and is working to complete the high school diploma requirements and an associate degree from SUNY Schenectady in four years. She is a strong student voice as a part of the Student Council and an advocate for herself and fellow classmates. She has the ability to clearly communicate, foster collaboration and demonstrates a genuine interest in the well-being and growth of her school community. In 2019 and 2022, she was also awarded the Triple C Certificate which recognizes courage, character and commitment in students by the New York State Attorney General.

The LWV in Schenectady County would like to ask Sheyenne and Sami to attend the Annual Meeting in order to share their experiences at the Conference.

Maxine Brisport

Maxine Brisport

Students Inside Albany LWV Representative

Welcome New Members:

John Assini and Carolyn Jones-Assini

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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.

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**Membership for July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**  
**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 \_\_\_\_\_ No Fee 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 518-393-7061 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.  
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**ACTIVE MEMBERS:** The League depends upon the work of its members, even if for just a short task. Please check any areas that interest you. We appreciate your help.

**Register Voters** \_\_\_\_\_ **Candidate Forums** \_\_\_\_\_ **Get Out the Vote** \_\_\_\_\_

**Citizenship Mentoring Group** \_\_\_\_\_ **Environment** \_\_\_\_\_ **Students Inside Albany** \_\_\_\_\_

**Observer Corps** \_\_\_\_\_ **Judicial** \_\_\_\_\_ **Health** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facebook** \_\_\_\_\_ **Website Work** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other Technical Skills (Describe)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other areas of interest** \_\_\_\_\_