

Letter from the President – January 2025



Membership Changes Coming Soon!

- Starting February 1, 2025, the national League (LWVUS) is switching to a new membership system in which members will pay their dues online
- Members can pay by credit card or ACH (Automated Clearing House)
- Or members can pay their dues with a check made out to LWVUS if they don't use the internet
- Members will get an emailed reminder when it's time to renew their membership- 1 year after they last paid their dues or June 30, whichever is later
- Members will get an email from LWVUS in late January/early February inviting them to log into the new membership system ("portal") and create a member page
- Dues will no longer be a fixed rate but will be pay-what-you-can
- The League is recommending dues of \$75/year but can be as low as \$20
- 20% of member dues will stay with the Schenectady League (currently, we only keep about 12%); 47% will go to the state League; and 33% will go to the national League
- Donations in support of our local League must be made separately- either by a check made out to LWV Schenectady or online on the screen after members pay their dues as an "additional contribution"
- LWVUS is hoping that these changes will lower barriers and increase membership in the League.
- You can find more details at <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/Member%20Focused%20FAQ.pdf>.
- Any questions? Contact me at lwvschenectady.com

Cheryl Nechamen, President

Voter Services Committee Report

It was all gas and no brakes till November's election. After getting ready for the holidays, VSC had a brief lull, but things will pick up—fast.

VSC received a grant for our Youth Voter Registration Project from the LWVUS Education Fund, in the same year that we celebrate our League's centennial. The youth VR project is an opportunity for our League to look to our next 100 years, by sharing with a new generation of voters our commitment to nonpartisanship, and our work on voting rights, voter education, and getting out the vote.

Voter Services 2025:

1. LWVUS-EF awarded us \$500 based on Ellen's idea of partnering with student leaders to get their peers interested in becoming voters. VR activities will be held at five area schools—high schools and community colleges. News of the grant came a few days before the holidays, so we are just starting to contact faculty advisors. We would appreciate any help you can offer.
2. 2025 is an off-year election, meaning all races are local races, and we are planning a program on how to run for office. Although it might be late for people to consider running in this election cycle, it is always a good time for would-be public servants and their supporters to learn about the laws and the process of seeking office.
3. Our first Greenmarket voter registration of the new year is on February 23, 2025.

The VSC needs your time, talent, and support! If you are interested in working on any of these projects, please join us at our next committee meeting on January 8 from 1:30-2:30pm. We will meet in the Swanker Room at the Karen B. Johnson Library, 99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305.

Joan Fucillo, VSC chair

<i>President</i>	<i>Cheryl Nechamen</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Joan Fucillo</i>
<i>Voter Services Chair</i>	<i>Joan Fucillo</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Heide Westergaard</i>
<i>Bulletin Editor</i>	<i>Cindy Engel</i>

Hundred Year Anniversary

The Schenectady County League of Women Voters was formed on April 30, 1925, at Union College, after a lecture by Mrs. FW Slade, the president of LWV-NYS. Her talk was arranged by Mrs. Charles (Sarah) Richmond, wife of the college’s president. Immediately after the lecture, most of the 50 attendees voted to form the Schenectady League. We are working with Union College to be part of the campus Women’s History Month events and are reaching out to the Schenectady County Historical Society.

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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”

Welcome New Members:

**Odell Loveless
Ramona Fabregas**

How to **SPOT** Mis-& Disinformation

LWV

- 01 Consider the Source**
Does the URL look strange? Check the 'About' page on the website.
- 02 Check the Date**
Is the story old news? Sharing out-of-date information may not match current events.
- 03 Cross Check the Info**
Are reputable news sources reporting the same story?
- 04 Read Past the Headline**
What's the whole story? Sometimes a headline doesn't match the content.
- 05 Question emotionally charged Content**
Disinformation intends to sow division by getting us angry or sad through images or memes.