



Join Us for Our
Holiday Luncheon!

Thursday, December 12, 12:00
Turf Tavern, Scotia

Buffet Lunch \$35
Guest Speaker: Arthur Butler
Human Rights Commission

RSVP to Cheryl Nechamen by December 3

Change to Bylaws

We will need to amend our bylaws to comply with the new membership system- see details in the President's Letter on p.2. Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of voting members present at an annual meeting (June); amendments must be submitted to membership in writing at least 1 month in advance of the annual meeting. The Board has approved the passage below.

1) ARTICLE VI- FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION; Section 2. DUES.

- a. **Remove** "Membership dues shall be payable on the first day of the fiscal year in an amount to be determined at an Annual Meeting following 30-day written notification to the membership."
- b. **Replace with** "Members shall pay dues in accordance with LWVUS policy."

Letter from the President – December 2024**Major Changes Coming to Dues Payments!!**

The national League of Women Voters is switching to a new membership system, called ChapterSpot. Starting February 1, 2025, members of all Leagues across the country will pay their dues online by credit card or by using Automated Clearing House (ACH), which deducts payments directly from members' checking accounts. It will still be possible for members to pay their dues by check if they don't use the internet.

When the system launches, members will receive an email asking them to log in to the new membership system ("portal") and create a member page. Members will not be asked to renew at this time unless it coincides with their regular renewal date--a year after their last dues payment. Once logged in, you'll be given the option to sign up to auto-renew annually. If you do not, when it comes time to renew, you will receive an email reminder.

Dues will no longer be a fixed rate but will be pay-what-you-can. The recommended amount for all members across the country will be \$75 a year, but members can pay any amount (minimum \$20).

Household memberships and student memberships will be eliminated. If you currently have a household membership, each member will need to create a member page using a unique email address and pay their dues separately. We'll be contacting members that share an email address about how to deal with this issue.

The national League is hoping each member will renew at \$75/person. However, it's up to you how much to pay, as long as it's at least \$20/person. Our Board has not yet decided how to handle student memberships, but I anticipate that we'll simply subsidize students so they can continue to join the League at no cost. The good news is that under the new system, 20% of your 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. To donate to our League, go to the contribution page in ChapterSpot (the screen after the dues payment screen) and make your donation there. Of course, you can always write a check to our local League, which may be the easiest way to donate.

The national League 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> .

Please feel free to contact Cheryl Nechamen at lwvschenectady@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Cheryl Nechamen, President

Voter Services Committee Report

The Voter Services Committee has applied for a 2025 Young Voters Registration Grant from the LWV Education Fund. The terms of the grant are that we conduct voter registration activities between January-June 2025, at a minimum of five different schools.

Our application is based on Ellen's idea of developing voter registration events by working through student government organizations at local community colleges and high schools.

The question is, how to get students interested? Presidential elections get a lot of attention and a lot of interest. Off-year elections, such as 2025's, get little attention, and few people turn out to vote. Yet, this may be a good time to talk with young people about why we vote, why it matters, and how to maximize their influence.

It's in local elections where each vote can have a real effect. The year's first round of elections is in May, when we will vote on school budgets and school board members. The outcomes of these races will directly affect all students in each school district. We want to ensure that all eligible high school voters have a say in the results.

The grant-writing process has prompted us to think a little differently from our normal tabling events. So, whether we get a grant, or not, we will implement a version of this plan. It's an opportunity to engage directly with young people and to show them why their voices and their votes matter.

Happy Holidays! Joan Fucillo. VSC Chair

Call for Volunteers!

Our first 100 years, our next 100 years.

The League of Women Voters of Schenectady County will turn 100 in 2025. The SUNY Albany archives is home to “eighty years’ worth of information about all aspect of the local organization.”

Our origination story, as told in the archives:

“On April 30, 1925, Mrs. Charles Richmond, wife of the president of Union College, invited approximately fifty women to her home for a talk by Mrs. F.W. Slade, chairman of the New York State League of Women Voters. After Slade’s talk, the women at the meeting decided to elect officers and adopt by-laws thereby forming the Schenectady County League of Women Voters.”

Our centenary deserves a celebration worthy of our past and our future! The celebration is two-part:

A historical recognition and tribute. We will ask permission to hold some kind of event at the Union College’s President’s House – even if it’s just to be in the room where it happened.

An outline for our next 100 years. What do we do? What will we look like?

We need volunteers to research our history in the SUNY Albany archives, to work with Union College on a possible event, and to come up with ideas for our next 100 years.

We have a lot of research and a lot of brainstorming ahead of us. A deep dive into our history as a League will help us think more clearly about our future. Should be fun!

I have a synopsis of the contents of the collection from the SUNY Albany archives. Please contact me if you would like a copy: lwvschenectady@gmail.com

All best!

Joan Fucillo

LWVSC at 100

<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>	

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:

Joyce Choi
Susan Landfried

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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.



**MEMBERSHIP FOR JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025**

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.



**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** \_\_\_\_\_