

NEWS FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE JUNE 2019



WCC, Yonkers Campus

WHAT WE DO

The League registers voters and disseminates information about voting, to help make this basic right of citizenship a reality for every citizen. We provide information on community issues through our monthly *Coffee & Conversation* speakers and through interviews on our cable program, *City People and Issues*. We organize events to introduce candidates for state and local office and we encourage voters to submit questions for debate. Young people are introduced to political careers through our state and county League programs, including *Students in Albany*.



IONA PREP



MONICA GREY

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

The Executive Board of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Monica Grey. Monica has been President of our League for four years, and she will be stepping down at the end of her current term.

During her tenure, Monica has tirelessly pursued civility and excellence. Her passionate belief in the League's mission - to promote informed participation in our democratic system for every citizen - has taken our

organization in new and wonderful directions. We will miss her!

The League would like to invite all members and friends to join us at our **annual meeting**. The meeting will be held at Sage Cafe on North Avenue, on June 22nd at 11 am. Sage is a very pleasant space with a lovely brunch menu. To register for the meeting and brunch, please send your name and a check for \$20/person to Marilyn Brown, 27 Chatham Road, New Rochelle, 10804.

Please mark your calendar to vote in the primary elections on June 25th. If you are a registered voter and will be out of town, it is not too late to apply for an **absentee ballot**. For personalized voting information, and for polling locations and hours, please see **vote411.org**.

Members will be receiving a snail mail reminder this week to **re-new your annual dues** to the League. Friends may want to consider **joining** to help support our mission. We thank you in advance for all your support.

NEW ROCHELLE LEAGUE'S CANDIDATE FORUM

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle held a Candidates Forum for the city school district's Board of Education and New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees on May 13 in the Ossie Davis Auditorium of the NRPL.

The five candidates for the Board of Education debated first. Rich Bamberger, Peter J. Cantone, William Iannuzzi, Vincent J. Malfetano and Valarie D. Williams made opening statements and answered written questions from the League and submitted by the audirence.

Library Board of Trustee candidates Whitney Barrat, Corey Galloway, and Beth Acocella debated second, also making opening statements and responding to written question



Board of Education Candidates

audience.



Volunteer Deb Hussey takes audience questions

White Plains League president Steven Cohen moderated the forum. Alice MacNamara was the Timekeeper. The forum was recorded by videographer John Beshevits and crew, and can be replayed here.

Valarie Williams and Wiliam Ianuzzi won the School Board election. Incumbent Whitney Barrat and Beth Acocella won the Library Trustee election.

LWV NEW ROCHELLE
ANNUAL MEETING
SAGE CAFE
June 22, 11am
\$20. - mail check to
Marilyn Brown
27 Chatham Road,
New Rochelle, NY
10804



Any study of the history of women's suffrage includes the men who stood alongside us and fought for women to have an equal say in government. Whether it is your husband, father, son, or partner who helps you celebrate your civic responsibility, you can honor him this Father's Day with a gift to the League. Click here to make a tax-deductible gift

in someone's name to the LWVNR Education Fund.

LWVNR Rolls out May Madness Youth Voter Registration Drive!

The LWVNR and LWV-Scarsdale Voter Service committees and volunteers have had a busy spring, registering over 300 young voters at many locales throughout the community. The drive kicked off May 1st at the WCC - Mt. Vernon campus; registration drives at Ursuline School, Iona



PELHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Prep and NRHS were held during the rest of the month. In addition, most



WCC YONKERS

registrants agreed to participate in the GOTV (Get Out The Vote) program and to reminded via text to vote before the upcoming 6/25 primary and 11/5 general elections.

The League also trained student volunteers from Pelham High School's

Young Democrat and Young Republican clubs, and students conducted the drive by themselves during lunchtime hours!

We will be registering Tuckahoe High School seniors at their graduation ceremony practice session on 6/25/19 to

finish up the project.



URSULINE SCHOOL

IONA PREP Evaluation and results of the program will be submitted to the LWVEF staff, in compliance with the grant

Summer plans include voter registration at the Farmers Markets, special outdoor events, and any other venue suitable for a table!! Suggestions are welcome. To volunteer, please contact Joan

Alexander at royjoanalex@yahoo.com.



WOMEN'S HISTORY ARCHIVES



On May 10, the National Archives unveiled a new major exhibit to mark the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment and its impact on our nation's history. *Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote* will be the cornerstone of our celebration of the historic amendment.

This new exhibit commemorates important anniversary by looking beyond suffrage parades and protests to the often overlooked story behind this landmark moment in American history. This fuller retelling of the struggle for women's voting rights illustrates the dynamic involvement of American women across the spectrum of race, ethnicity and class to reveal what it really takes to win the vote for one half of the people.

In honor of the exhibit and in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, we invite you to browse the wealth of records and information documenting the women's rights movement in the United States on our new Women's Rights topic page. Use this page to explore photographs, documents, audiovisual recordings, educational resources, articles, blog posts, lectures, and a timeline of events, all relating to women's rights and history.

--NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOGUE, 5/2/2019

FACT OR FAKE PRESENTATION AT LIBRARY

Despite the threat of thunderstorms, about 12 people attended the presentation of "Fact or Fake: Exploring the Role of Media in Politics" at the New Rochelle Public Library on May 28th. The slide presentation and discussion program, which began as a project of Hackley School students, was developed further by the LWV Westchester Education Fund in association with the



Westchester Library System and by a grant from the Westchester Community Fund.

Andrew Katell, whose career included 12 years with the Associated Press, including as Moscow correspondent and editor, ran the presentation. The program traced the revolution in news distribution as local papers were swallowed up by large regional media and national conglomerates such as Gannett, whose *Journal News* became the regional <u>lohud.com</u>, and as local radio and TV also became part of national networks. The internet brought a shrinkage of print journalism and rise of social media, with gatekeepers giving way to direct communication. The presentation gave some examples of fake stories and how videos can be modified to distort a speaker's comments.

The presentation and supplementary handouts recommended a diverse media diet of news from sources with various points of views. It also discussed tools for recognizing fake news sites and web addresses that promulgate false information.



WHAT DOES A MAYOR DO?

The Mayor has several important roles and responsibilities in New Rochelle.

As the Chair of the seven-member City Council, the Mayor serves as New Rochelle's chief legislator and policy-maker. He or she leads Council meetings and works to forge clear policy direction that can be communicated from the Council to New Rochelle's professional staff.

The Mayor functions as the chief spokesperson for New Rochelle. This responsibility includes: coordination with federal, state, and county representatives, as well as other municipalities with respect to common priorities, grant applications, lobbying for desired actions, etc.; strengthening partnerships with non-governmental organizations that operate in the public space; building confidence among developers and investors in order to promote economic growth; and representing the community at ceremonial functions and observances.

As the only municipal official elected at-large by all the residents of New Rochelle, the Mayor also has important duties related to public communication. This is a two-way process, involving, on the one hand, the distribution of information through newsletters, robocalls, social media posts, attendance at community gatherings, or other means, and, on the other hand, response to individual questions or requests for assistance that often come to the Mayor or the Mayor's office.

Finally, the Mayor functions as a vital member of the City's leadership team, engaging in frequent consultation with the City Manager and other municipal officials with respect to the effective and responsive delivery of services, the establishment of City priorities, and the inclusion of Council Members in a collaborative decision-making process.

For two generations, spanning multiple mayors of both parties, these duties have entailed a full-time commitment or more, although not necessarily structured in a traditional nine-to-five fashion.

-- Mayor Noam Bramson





On May 17th, outgoing School Board President Jeffrey Hastie and Interim Assistant Superintendent of Business and Administration Tom Ryan joined our group to speak about the proposed budget and challenges and

achievements the school board has addressed over the past two years.

There was a lively discussion regarding SROs (Security Resource Officers) in our schools, and about how the school budget is proposed to be used. Jeffrey Hastie spoke fondly of his 10 years of service to the school board. Tom Ryan spoke about coming out of retirement to help New Rochelle during this past year.



Coffee and Conversation is an ongoing series of informal public gatherings conducted by Susan Fleming, with guests discussing public issues. The meetings, open to all, are

sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle.



Coffee and Conversation is held monthly in the New Rochelle Public Library's first floor meeting room on select Fridays from 9:30 to 11 am. Coffee and light refreshments are served. For further information, please call 914-632-8254.

LWVW 2019 CONVENTION & LUNCHEON

Thursday June 6th, 10 am

Join LWVW and Special Guest Thomas Wolf

Scarsdale Woman's Club
- 37 Drake Road

Luncheon fee: \$45.00

Pay by PAYPAL OR CREDIT CARD at www.lwvw.org

Lawmakers focus on setting new standard for sexual harassment

Advocates battling against sexual harassment in New York workplaces are backing legislation they say will transform a reporting system that leaves victims without sufficient options for recourse. But with only 13 scheduled days left in session, the changes they want will likely require a hard push to get through in their current form.

The "bedrock" of the 10-bill package, according to Assembly sponsor Aravella Simotas (D-Queens), is a bill that changes a decades-old standard for what qualifies as discriminatory harassment, currently defined as "severe or pervasive." The groups want the standard for harassment to be widened to anything that exceeds "petty slights or trivial inconveniences." --Politico, 5/24/2019

READ THE REST AT HARASSMENT

WESTCHESTER PREPARES FOR EARLY VOTING

Voters in New York will now join those in 37 other states who are allowed to vote at more than one place on more than one day. The law guarantees that every New York voter will be able to cast a ballot during some weekend hours during the two weekends before an election, as well as some daytime and evening hours during the week before Election Day. No longer will so many need to go through the cumbersome process of absentee ballots because obligations keep them from their polling place the second Tuesday of November. Or not vote at all.

Implementation is extremely demanding, requiring identification of polling places, staffing with trained staff, and ensuring security for polling places, as well as purchase of new machinery. These responsibilities fall on the county Boards of Elections. The state budget offers reimbursement for much of the expense, but the workload is huge.

Some facts that Westchester voters need to know about early voting:

- 1. Early voting will not begin with the upcoming primaries on June 25.
- 2. Early voting will begin with the general election Nov. 5.
- 3. Not every polling place will be open and available for early voting. The Westchester Board of Elections will determine which sites will be open for early voting 10 days prior to the general election, and for two full weekends before the election. --adapted from Yonkers Times, 5/25/19

READ THE REST AT EARLY VOTING

NEW YORK STATE 2019 VOTING DEADLINES FOR PRIMARY DAY ELECTION JUNE 25

June 18 Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot

June 24 Last day to apply in person for absentee ballot

June 24 Last day to postmark absentee ballot for primary

June 25 Last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to County BOE



CITY PEOPLE AND ISSUES JUNE

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle presents two new interviews on its June cable television program, "City People and Issues."

Jared Rice (right,) New Rochelle city councilman for the past nine years, is not running for reelection. He talks with host Ina Aronow about his decision not to seek reelection, about how he has grown and accomplished his goals, and about his future plans.



Scott Pickup (left,) New Rochelle Commissioner of Public Works, talks with host Tamar Tait about the behind-the-scenes effort to keep the streets,

sidewalks, city properties and other infrastructure properly maintained, the garbage collected, the streets plowed, falling leaves collected, and other responsibilities.

The two programs will be shown on alternate weeks on Optimum Channel 76 on Mondays at 7 pm, and repeated on Wednesdays at 10

pm and Thursdays at 9:30 pm. They will also be on demand at www.vimeo.com after the first showing on Optimum.

The interview with Councilman Rice will be shown the weeks of June 3 and 17. The interview with Mr. Pickup will be shown during the weeks of June 10 and 24.

NEW YORK HAS A CHANCE TO CHANGE VOTING FOREVER

As the push for automatic voter registration (AVR) swept the country in 2016, New York City saw 200,000 voters illegally purged from its rolls. The same year that thousands of New Yorkers lost the franchise, Oregon, the first state to implement an AVR system, saw 44 percent of automatically registered voters cast a ballot. Since then, fourteen more states, ranging from red to blue, have followed suit.

States that have implemented AVR have seen dramatic increases in registering eligible voters, leading them to have higher turnout rates. New York State, meanwhile, struggles with chronically low voter turnout, in part because it ranked 46th in the nation for registration in 2018. Earlier this year, the state made historic improvements to its voting laws, but more than 4.6 million eligible New Yorkers remain unregistered...

--THE NATION, 5/6/19



CORRECTION: In May, we published the wrong image for Mark L. McLean, president of the New Rochelle NAACP. We also referred to him as "the Reverend Mark McLean," but he prefers to be addressed as "Minister." This is Minister McLean. We apologize for these errors. --Leslie Mignault, Editor



JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE

The League depends on the work and financial support of all of its to carry out its programs. Membership is open to women and men of voting age. Joining our local league confers membership in the State and National Leagues, enables you to receive publications from all three levels, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME	
	EMAIL
NEW MEMBERSHIP	RENEWAL
INDIVIDUAL \$60/YEAR	HOUSEHOLD* \$85/YEAR
* ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBE	ER NAME
	EMAIL
	R MEMBERSHIP CHECK PAYABLE TO LWV NR RT THE LEAGUE WITH A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION
	BLE TO LWV EDUCATION FOUNDATION
	OTHER
RETURN THIS	APPLICATION WITH YOUR CHECK TO
The Leagu	ue of Women Voters of New Rochelle
	45 Long Vue
	New Rochelle, NY 10804

or

Join and/or Donate via PAYPAL on our website: www.lwvnewro.org

NEW ROCHELLE NEWS

ELECTION RESULTS

Voters in the New Rochelle school district approved the \$281 million budget for the 2019-20 school year. According to unofficial results, the budget was approved 2,232 to 1,122. The budget was 3.95 percent more than the current spending plan and the tax levy increase was 2.2 percent, which was within the state mandated tax cap. Five candidates were vying for two seats on the board of education. The winners were William lannuzzi and Valarie D. Williams. Also on the ballot were Rich Bamberger, Peter J. Cantone and Vincent J. Malfetano.

The Library budget was also approved. Library Trustee Whitney Barrat was re-elected. Beth Acocella replaced incumbent Corey Galloway. - adapted from Patch 5/22/19

There will be **free yoga** in New Rochelle's Hudson Park before the New Rochelle Council on the Arts Emil Paolucci Summer Sounds Concert Series, June 26-Aug. 28. Before each concert, instructor Geoff Eddy will offer a free yoga class, suitable for people of all abilities, from 6 to 6:45 p.m. For more information, visit www.newrochellearts.org or call 914-654-2087.

The downtown **Farmers Market** opens for the season June 1. The market will offer local fruits, organic greens, artisanal breads and cheeses, pickles, home-made desserts, locally-roasted coffee, hand-crafted soaps, pasture-fed meat, and fresh cut flowers from local farms at the Sprig Flower Truck. There will be food preparation demonstrations, and a knife-sharpener will be there on the first Saturday of every month. There will be live music and special events for children. This all-new and expanded market will be held weekly from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays at Ruby Dee Park at Library Green, through October. --adapted from Patch, 5/30/2019

Final CNR Class Graduates

The graduation ceremony for the College of New Rochelle's Class of 2019 May 21 was at the same time a celebration and a bittersweet occasion. It was the final commencement of the college and its final graduating class. The college is slated to shut its door after the summer semester.

Dr. William Latimer, president of CNR, spoke about the College's legacy of educational access and how it affected those in the Class of 2019 and thousands of others who came before them, urging them to tell their children what CNR meant to them and how it changed their lives.

"As long as you remember that and tell those stories, CNR's legacy will live on in you," he said.

-- Patch, 5/23/2019

READ THE REST AT CNR

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD UPCOMING EVENTS











VOLUNTEER











Friends of NRPL Benefit Concert: Classical Flute & Guitar featuring Maxim Rubtsov

A benefit concert for the Friends of MBK Barbershop Initiative and New Rochelle's Pop-Up Libraries

Friday June 7

7:00pm - 8:00pm In the Ossie Davis Theater

League of Women Voters of New York State

58th State Convention

(and the State League's 100th Birthday Party!)



June 7-9, 2019
Albany Hilton
REGISTER HERE









FREE STARGAZING EVENT

SATURDAY 6/8 7 PM - 11 PM REGISTER HERE

News from the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle is published by the Executive Board of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. We are Joan Alexander, Ina Aronow, Marilyn Brown, Leona Newman, Susan Fleming, Monica Grey, Sydelle Herzberg, John Hessel, Peter Korn, Leslie Mignault, and Pearl Quarles. You may contact us at LWVNewRochelle@gmail.com.