



NEWS FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE **MAY 2019**

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*.

MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 12th

Celebrate your mother by helping give women full equality of rights under the U.S. Constitution! Write cards to your U.S. Senators and Representatives, and ask them to support the Equal Right Amendment.

Make a tax-deductible contribution to the [LWVNR Educational Fund](#) in the name of someone you love!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Amidst the din and distraction of dozens, actually hundreds (683 filings so far!), of candidates who have declared their candidacies for the 2020 presidential election, it might be easy to lose sight of elections taking place in our own backyard ... now! On May 21st, the third Tuesday of May, citizens of small cities throughout NYS – including New Rochelle – will elect members to their school boards and library boards, and vote on budgets proposed for those institutions.

Our schools are the heart of our community. It doesn't matter whether you are the parent of a child presently enrolled in one of our public schools. As a community, we entrust almost eleven thousand students to them to educate and help develop to become the adults who will lead, innovate, cure, build, save, and drive *our* future. And, we commit almost \$282 million dollars to do the job.

In New Rochelle, our public library is a critical center stone, and equalizer for all the city's varied constituencies. Through the use of all media and technologies, it provides free and open access to information, essential for expanding our understanding and maintaining our democracy. It seeks to operate on an almost six million dollar budget.

So why then, with so much at stake, do fewer than 10% of eligible voters (12% in 2018 when 8 candidates ran for school board, and 5 for the Library) usually voice their opinions? Why as a community do we leave it to six or eight percent of our citizens to make decisions for us about how millions of our tax dollars will be spent, how children will be educated, and who will make policy decisions that may impact us and our city for decades to come?

One answer may lie in lack of awareness. Unlike the years of electioneering hype preceding presidential elections, the window for school board elections is small. Candidates have until May 1st to file their petitions to run for the two open seats on the NR School Board and the two open Library Trustee seats. That leaves less than three weeks to the election! That's scant time to vet the candidates, glean their positions, and formulate an opinion on whose values align best with yours. On April 23rd the school board approved the proposed budget, which is available on line on the district website: <https://bit.ly/2DBVzpH>. It will hold a public hearing on May 7th at NRHS. The Library Board will also hold a public hearing on its proposed budget on May 7th, at the Library.

The NR League will conduct a Candidates' Forum on Monday evening, May 13th at NRPL for both School Board and for Library Board candidates. It will be recorded for viewing on-demand at vimeo.com and on public access channels. I urge you to attend, watch, consider ... and vote on May 21st! -- **Monica Grey**

SAVE THE DATE

LWV of Westchester 2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION & LUNCHEON

Thursday, June 6

Registration: 10:00 AM, Meeting: 10:30 AM

Luncheon & Speaker 12:00 PM

League of Women Voters of Westchester, Inc. | 914-949-0507

lwvwestchester@optonline.net | lwv.org

IMPORTANT LOCAL EVENTS IN MAY

May 7 Board of Education Regular Meeting , 6 pm in the NRHS Library, followed by a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2019-2020 School Budget at 7 pm

May 7 Public Hearing on Library Budget at New Rochelle Public Library at 7 pm

May 13 LWVNR Candidates Forum for School and Library Board at Ossie Davis Theatre, New Rochelle Public Library, 6 pm

May 17 Coffee & Conversation, NRPL 1st fl Meeting Room, 9:30-11 am

May 21 School and Library board and Budget Vote, polls open 7am - 9pm

May 28 Know Your Government Workshop, NRPL, 5:30-7 pm



Exploring the
Role of Media in Politics

Brought to you by



05.28.2019 TUESDAY
5:30-7PM

NEW ROCHELLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

1 LIBRARY PLAZA
NEW ROCHELLE NY 10801

Free * Non-Partisan * Open to All



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE SPOTLIGHT ON CIVICS

WHAT DOES A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DO?

The City School District of New Rochelle is governed by an elected board of 9 members who serve 5 year terms. The School Board selects its own president and vice president annually. In the past, board members were appointed by the mayor, but since the 1980s, our Independent school board has been elected directly by the citizens. Board members are elected, and serve, on a staggered basis, and 1 or 2 positions come up annually.

Our school board meets twice monthly at public meetings. Board members also serve on various committees of the board. Members hire a district superintendent, approve hiring of all personnel, and approve an annual budget to present to the citizenry. These are perhaps the most visible and important actions of the board, but School Board members also vote on district policies affecting our schools and children, approve contracts with employees and for city services, and retain attorneys to assist with legal matters and contract negotiations. Board members serve as the financial guardians of the tax dollars entrusted to them, and are the "eyes and ears" of the community.

-- Vincent Malfetano

WHAT DOES A LIBRARY TRUSTEE DO?

The New Rochelle Public Library is governed by a board of seven trustees who are elected to serve five-year terms, and meet monthly on the second Thursday of every month in public meetings. Each trustee sits on a number of committees, and every trustee chairs at least one committee. The New Rochelle *Handbook for Library Trustees, 2018* describes the responsibilities of NRPL Trustees as "few in number, but broad in scope."

Trustees must:

- Create and develop the mission of the library
- Regularly plan and evaluate the library's service program based on community needs
- Secure adequate funding for the library's service program
- Exercise fiduciary responsibility for the use of public and private funds
- Adopt policies and rules regarding library governance and use
- Maintain a facility that meets the library's and community's needs
- Promote the library in the local community and in society in general
- Conduct the business of the library in an open and ethical manner in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and with respect for the institution, staff and public
- Select, hire, and regularly evaluate a qualified library director

-- Whitney Barrat



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

May's guests will be Interim Superintendent of Schools Magda Parvey (left) and Board of Education of New Rochelle member Jeffrey Hastie (right,) who will discuss issues pertaining to New Rochelle's school system.



Coffee and Conversation is an ongoing series of informal public gatherings, with guests discussing public issues. The meetings, open to all, are sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle.

Coffee and Conversation will be held in the New Rochelle Public Library's first floor meeting room on Friday, May 17, 9:30 to 11 am. Coffee and light refreshments are served. For further information, please call 914-632-8254.



Women on the 2020 campaign trail are being treated more negatively by the media

Female candidates running for president are consistently being described in the media more negatively than their male counterparts. That's what we've concluded after an analysis of **130 articles** from mainstream news outlets. It's a disconcerting trend in the 2020 election coverage, and with the addition of 70 more articles to our database, the picture has become even clearer.

Before moving on, a quick refresher on methodology: We're focusing on the five most-read news websites according to Amazon's Alexa service: The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Huffington Post, CNN, and Fox News. "Substantial" stories were chosen (a rough rule of thumb was for articles to be over 500 words). While randomness cannot be guaranteed, given that this was human-selected, the content of the articles themselves were mostly ignored in the selection process. There was no intentional effort to choose articles based on subject matter.

--StoryBench, 3/29/2019

[READ THE REST AT CANDIDATES](#)

RUNNING AND WINNING WORKSHOP



New York State Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and State Senator Shelley Mayer were among 20 elected women officials who shared their journeys to elected office with 52 select junior and senior girls from Westchester (including Hannah Bases and Rachel Kwon from NRHS) for the eighth annual “Running and Winning” workshop at the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester.

The daylong April 11 workshop was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Westchester, the American Association of University Women of Westchester, and the YWCA., and it was funded by the Westchester Community Foundation.

The female officials, including mayors, town supervisors, and eight of the 12 women who represent a female majority on the 17-member Westchester Board of Legislators, each briefly told of similar yet different paths to winning elections. They then rotated among the 10 tables of students, to speak with them and to answer questions.



RACHEL KWON (LEFT)

The officials described the satisfaction of being involved in their community, seeing problems they could help solve, and bringing diverse people together. There was also the awareness that women do things differently than men. Catherine Parker, Democratic Majority Leader of the Westchester Board of Legislators, characterized some of the men on the previous board as “heartless,” and said that “what we have done is restore empathy. Empathy. I can’t stress that enough.”

After the political leaders left, each group of five or six students planned a mock political campaign, selecting among themselves a candidate, campaign manager, speech writer, publicity director, and fund raising/events coordinator. They also designed a poster. Then each group made a presentation, which included a campaign speech by the “candidate.”

Given a choice of three campaign themes, and armed with their smart phones to do research, six of the 10 groups tackled the gender pay gap. Four groups campaigned for an immigration services center in their community, highlighting the facts that many in their group were the children of immigrants and that diverse groups need to work together.

Each student filled out an evaluation form before leaving, and they were overwhelmingly positive. The students particularly appreciated

the conversations with the elected officials, and planning and presenting their own mock campaigns. Deb Morel, chair of the event, believes that the event had “a profound and inspiring impact on this talented group of young women. They networked with female elected official, enhanced their team-building and leadership skills, and gained a realistic idea of the rewards and challenges of public service and elected office.” **--adapted from LWV release**



HANNAH BASES

CITY PEOPLE AND ISSUES MAY

In May, *City People and Issues*, the cable television show produced by the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle, will play interviews with William Zimmermann, Commissioner of Parks and Recreations (right,) and with Reverend Mark L. McLean, president of the New Rochelle branch of the NAACP (left.) The half hour programs highlight people and issues that make a difference to New Rochelle.



This month, William Zimmermann talks with host Ina Aronow about the many programs and activities of the department and the proposed additions and improvements to local parks. Rev. Mark L. McLean speaks with host Tamar Tait about the history and goals of the organization and its welcoming of community members to participate in its work toward freedom, justice and equality.

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 Mr. Zimmermann will be shown during the weeks of April 22 and May 6 and 20. The interview with Rev. McLean will be shown during the weeks of April 29 and May 13 and 27.

LWVUS POLICY BRIEFING ON FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

LWVUS is holding a series of policy briefings throughout the Spring of 2019. These briefings cover ongoing legislative and litigation efforts. The April 23 Briefing covered HR4 (the Voting Rights Advancement Act.)

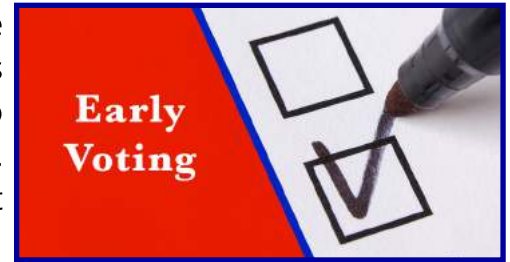


On Tuesday, May 21, from 3-4 PM, join LWVUS policy and advocacy staff for an update on the movement of HR1, the For the People Act. We will discuss updates on the Senate version of the bill.

[Register Here!](#)

SPECIAL REPORT EARLY VOTING: CHALLENGES

The League applauded the election reforms that were passed this January. We were pleased that money was included in the budget for early voting which is mandated to take place before the November 5, 2019, general election. However, we are very aware of the challenges to implement early voting.



The paper poll books traditionally used in NY on Election Day, where poll workers locate the name of the voter and the voter signs, cannot be used effectively in the many counties where there will be more than one Early Voting poll site. There would need to be multiple copies of the books available at each and every poll site. Electronic poll books that will continuously be updated with who has already voted, as well as on-demand printers to print the appropriate ballot for each voter, will meet the needs of early voting.

Some counties are looking to change their voting systems because they are over ten years old and may need to be replaced and also because there is new technology that combines printing the ballot with voting and scanning. New York was the last state at that time to replace the lever machines, and has some of the strictest standards in certifying voting machines.

Although money is now included in the budget for early voting and electronic poll books, counties do not know the amount they will be getting or even how the money in the budget will be divided. While the NYS BOE has supervisory power over the administration of early voting, the Governor's office controls the money and will determine each county BOE's allocation based on proposals submitted. The League is meeting with the Governor's staff and our coalition partners to have input into the criteria used to evaluate the proposals submitted by the counties.

The minimum number of poll sites counties need is designated by the new election law, with the maximum mandate of 7. However, the larger counties have indicated they will have more than 7 sites. Because the sites must be open for the two weekends prior to Election Day and the 5 weekdays in between, some are having problems locating sites. In addition, the increased number of days increases the challenge of finding poll workers and educating them.

-- ADAPTED FROM JUDIE GORENSTEIN, STATE LEAGUE VOTER, 4/19

America's New Voting Machines Bring New Fears of Election Tampering

By design, tens of millions of votes are cast across America on machines that cannot be audited, where the votes cannot be verified, and there is no meaningful paper trail to catch problems – such as a major error or a hack.

For almost 17 years, states and counties around the country have conducted elections on machines that have been repeatedly shown to be vulnerable to hacking, errors and breakdowns, and that leave behind no proof that the votes counted actually match the votes that were cast. --The Guardian, 4/22/19

[READ THE REST AT MACHINES](#)

LWVNR Rolls out May Madness Youth Voter Registration Drive!



April was a busy month for voter registration volunteers at area colleges. Starting May 1st, we will be able to focus on May Madness Youth Voter registration (thanks to a generous grant from the LWVEF, the Education Foundation of the national League.) Volunteers are welcome and appreciated. Training is always provided.

In June, we will participate in the Senior Citizen Expo on June 1 at Hugh Doyle Center. We also plan to set up at Farmers markets, local fairs, and at other public events.

Voter Service will hold a Candidates forum for Library and School board positions on Monday 5/13/19 at 6 pm in the Ossie Davis Auditorium of the New Rochelle Public Library.

Vote 411 volunteer Joan Alexander will be working with other Leagues to put together Vote411.org, an online information tool for the upcoming primary elections. Outreach will begin soon to candidates to input their information in Vote 411. The printed Vote411 guide will be distributed in the fall, before the general election.

Please call Joan Alexander at 914-715-3916 or email at rojjoanalex@yahoo.com for more details.



VOTER REGISTRATION AT MONROE COLLEGE



Voter Registration at Iona College

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

May 31 Last day to postmark voter registration or to register in person

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



JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF

The League depends on the work and financial support of its members to carry out its programs. Membership is open to women and men. 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.

**JOIN NOW
AND GET A
FREE
MONTH !!!**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NEW MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL

INDIVIDUAL \$60/YEAR

HOUSEHOLD* \$85/YEAR

* ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHECK PAYABLE TO LWV NR

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE LEAGUE WITH A **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** CONTRIBUTION

MADE PAYABLE TO **LWV EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

\$100

\$50

OTHER _____

RETURN THIS APPLICATION WITH YOUR CHECK TO

The League 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

PARKS AND TRAILS MAP

The City of New Rochelle is seeking the public's input to help make sure residents and visitors can safely access parks and trails within a 10-minute walk of their location. The city has put together a [website](#) on which people can map where they access parks and trails, provide recommendations for improvements to their routes, such as adding a bike lane or repairing a sidewalk, and upload pictures. You can click or tap on the category you wish to fill out, and then click or tap "+Start Survey" to get started. --Patch, 4/11/19

New Rochelle Parks



**Spring Cleanup Crew Needed
Ward Acres Community
Garden,
Selected Dates in May**

VOLUNTEER

Local History Presentation: The Carpenters and New Rochelle's African-American Cemetery

There will be a free presentation on May 16th at 6PM at the New Rochelle Public Library regarding the rich history of the Carpenter family and the Joseph Carpenter Cemetery. See flyer [here](#).

Joseph Carpenter was a Quaker, abolitionist, active member of the Underground Railroad, and founder of a cemetery where former slaves could be buried alongside Quakers and Huguenots. Joseph Carpenter Cemetery marks the final resting place of Joseph Carpenter, his wife Margaret, and more than 450 former slaves and their descendants. Aside from setting aside property where former slaves could be laid to rest, Joseph Carpenter's property is documented as being the first stop in Westchester of the Underground Railroad.

The Joseph Carpenter Cemetery is situated on the southeast corner of 150 Stratton Road just east of the property's driveway and just west of the Iona Baseball Field. It is adjacent to the driveway that still has trees. More details can be found at this site: <https://bit.ly/2UsjeP9>



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD
UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW ROCHELLE YMCA
120th Annual Spring Gala

Thursday, May 9th

Surf Club on the Sound

**Celebrating the impact that the
New Rochelle YMCA makes on the
community.**

[Click here to register](#)

**Show your support by attending
this event or contributing to our
cause.**

**You can also make a donation to our
cause by clicking here.**

NEW ROCHELLE OPERA

Annual Spring Gala

**Honoring Metropolitan
Opera's Donald Palumbo and
NRO Conductor Gregory
Buchalter**

**Cocktail Hour, Concert,
Dinner and Dessert**

May 02, 2019 6:30 PM

VIP COUNTRY CLUB

[Click HERE to register](#)

**NEW ROCHELLE PUBLIC
LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

**Honoring William Handelman, Lynn
Green, Leslie Demus, Tom and
Theresa Leghorn, Dave and Evelyn
McCabe, Dan and Kate Ronan**

**Presentation of 1st Guardian Award
to Fareed Zakaria and Tom Goldstone**

May 9th

GREENTREE COUNTRY CLUB

**COCKTAILS, SILENT AUCTION, DINNER
AND DANCING**

[Buy Tickets HERE](#)



SATURDAY, MAY 4:

- **Shift 1: 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM**
- **Shift 2: 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM**

**[Click here to sign-up to
volunteer](#)**

**Local History Presentation:
The Carpenters and New Rochelle's African-American Cemetery**



**Thursday, May 16, 2019
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Ossie Davis Theater
New Rochelle Public Library
1 Library Plaza at Memorial Highway
New Rochelle, NY 10801**

One of the region's most important Underground Railroad stations was located in northern New Rochelle. There, Quaker Joseph Carpenter and his daughter, Esther, were instrumental in providing a safe haven for slaves traveling to freedom. Carpenter was also responsible for ensuring that people of color had a proper place in which to be buried.

Today, Carpenter Cemetery, located on the property of 150 Stratton Road, is an overgrown ramble of underbrush covering the graves of more than 450 former slaves and their descendants, as well as Quakers and Huguenots.

Professor Dorothee Greenberg will speak about the secret network of homes ready to help fugitives from slavery, in Westchester, and the Carpenters' role.

Local historians and community members will also discuss the history and future of Carpenter Cemetery.

Free.

ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED

The Westchester County Board of Elections is looking for qualified individuals to work as Election Inspectors

Election Inspector Requirements:

You must be a registered voter and a resident of Westchester County

- **Attend 2 training classes**

*The Board of Elections will pay you \$225 for working Election Day
and \$25 for each training class*

Please contact one of the following individuals for more information:

Ericka Sterling (Democrat) at (914) 995-8568 or EMS2@westchestergov.com

Jon Cannella (Republican) at (914) 995-8563 or JQCE@westchestergov.com



**Garden Educators
Hudson Park Children's
Greenhouse
*Stipend available***

VOLUNTEER

**"Free Speech vs. Hate Speech: When
Does it Become Hate Speech?"**

Leaders of the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) workshop for parents and guardians

May 15 6:30 to 8 pm

Room 207 of New Rochelle High School, 265 Clove Road

**STATE SENATOR
SHELLEY B. MAYER
&
ANGEL GOMEZ
ANGELO'S PIZZA & PASTA, OWNER**
INVITE YOU TO A

**ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:
GROWTH AND SUCCESS OF LATINO OWNED BUSINESSES**

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019 • 10 AM - 12 PM

**Shelley Mayer's District Office,
222 Grace Church Street, Suite 300,
Port Chester**

**For more information call Perla Zuniga
Arellano at 914-934-5250 or email
Arellano@nysenate.gov**

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.