



# News from the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle

March 2017

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in NYS, November 6, 2017

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle is planning to celebrate this anniversary as well New Rochelle's important role in the history of Women's Suffrage. We encourage and welcome your help in developing these activities. Please contact us with your interest at [lwvnewrochelle@gmail.com](mailto:lwvnewrochelle@gmail.com), or call Monica Grey, LWVNR President, @ 914-632-1086.



New York Suffrage Parade 1917

November 6, 2017  
November 19, 2019  
February 14, 2020  
August 26, 2020

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dates

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Woman Suffrage in New York State  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of New York State  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National League of Women Voters  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the official certification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment by the US Secretary of State

To celebrate Women's History Month, The Westchester County Board of Legislators celebrated the outstanding contributions of organizations and of women who serve the public good on the evening of March 6<sup>th</sup>. At this event, the League of Women Voters of Westchester was saluted in commemoration of the Centennial of Women's Suffrage in New York State. The Board also recognized Lindsay Farrell, President and CEO of the Open Door Family Medical Center and

Foundation, for her dedication to high quality community-based care, efficient care delivery and population health management, and Jeni Wallace, Acting Director of the Matthew Wallace Foundation, for promoting scholarship and child safety in memory of her son, Matthew.

### **Sydelle Herzberg Speaks at Paine Cottage on Difficult Road to Women's Suffrage**

New Rochelle LWV Board Member Sydelle Herzberg spoke at the Paine Cottage on March 4th about the fight for women to get the vote. It all began when New Rochelle/Mamaroneck resident Lucretia Mott was forced to sit in the balcony with Elizabeth Cady Stanton at the World Anti-Slavery Convention in 1840. They organized the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls eight years later, where Stanton read out the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments, which included the demand for basic women's rights along with the most radical demand that women get the right to vote. Sydelle pointed out that women at this point in American History did not even control their property, so those demands were approved by the convention but the right to vote was not. The Married Women's Property Act was passed in 1848, but the right to vote took another 75 years.



Sydelle went on to describe how Susan B. Anthony joined the movement and “while Stanton wrote, Anthony spoke.” The alcohol and tobacco interests were two of the biggest opponents of women's suffrage. She emphasized that at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, where former slave Sojourner Truth delivered what is now recognized as one of the most famous abolitionist and women's rights speeches in American history, “Ain't I a Woman?” Stanton ran for Congress and got 4 votes

while Anthony was fined \$100 for voting in a Presidential election, a fine that was never paid. But women were not able to get the vote even after the Civil War ended and black men got the right to vote.

Sydelle next celebrated the work of another New Rochelle resident, Carrie Chapman Catt, who had lived right down the street from the Paine Cottage. She took over the movement after Stanton died, and even went down into the coalmines to promote women's suffrage. The western states now joining the

union had given women the right to vote, but they had few members in the House of Representatives because of their small populations. Catt and her group began lobbying members of Congress for the right to vote. In 1911 Stanton's daughter led a parade down Broadway in New York with over 3,000 women demanding suffrage. This helped the passage of Women's Suffrage in New York State in 1917, which gave suffrage more votes in Congress. During World War I, Catt and her group agreed to support the war, while a new, more militant group under Alice Paul continued to protest for women's suffrage by saying "How can we fight for democracy if women are denied the right to vote?" These women were arrested and force-fed, which was reported in the press and gained sympathy for the suffrage cause.

It was President Wilson who finally was so worn down by all the women's protests that he decided to support women's suffrage. The nineteenth amendment was finally passed in 1920, stalled to make sure that the Republican Party would get credit for it. But the amendment still took great effort by women to be finally ratified. Catt went on to organize the League of Women Voters to educate the women about the issues of the day. Sydelle ended her talk with a reminder to all how hard and long women had to fight for the right to vote so "it is not a right, but a requirement for everyone to vote!"

### **Women in the American Revolution: Putting the "her" in Heroics**

On Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, Eric Chandler will introduce some of the women who risked their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to lift the yoke of British control from the 13 colonies. These women are missing from our history books; their stories as soldiers and spies have been left untold until now. Members of the public are invited to join him at the Paine Cottage Museum as their tales of courage will be revealed in this power point illustrated talk at 2:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 16.

### **Students Inside Albany Program**



This year, again with the help in the selection from NRHS Social Studies Teacher Debbie Minchin, the New Rochelle League of Women Voters will be sending Ana Maria Acevedo to this four-day conference in Albany. Ana is a senior at New

Rochelle High School. This Conference is an intensive four- day training experience held in the spring. It is designed to introduce students to the process by which public policy is proposed, enacted and changed in New York State and to educate them as to how they can influence and affect this process. During the conference, “insiders” discuss the operations of New York State government, including how policy is shaped and enacted. Students develop knowledge of the differing forces that influence policy development. Additionally, students are given the opportunity to observe Assembly and Senate sessions and to shadow both their Assembly members and Senators (from the LWV NYS site.) Acevedo expressed her “gratitude for providing this amazing opportunity.” She said she was “looking forward to it very much and will not waste it.” The New Rochelle League pays for her travel to Albany, while the State League pays for the event.

### **An Invitation**

Ana Maria Acevedo also wanted to tell our readers a bit about a project that she and a group of seniors is planning. Unraveling Gender, a Local Ideas Festival organized by New Rochelle High School student and Bezos Scholar Ana Acevedo, will take place on March 25th from 10am to 3pm at New Rochelle High School. Unraveling Gender aims to celebrate diversity and foster an inclusive community; where people of all genders can express themselves fully. It will feature remarks from Sam Killermann, Reginald Richardson, Michael Hilderbrand, Eileen Riemerschmid, and more. For more details, visit [www.unravelinggender.com](http://www.unravelinggender.com).

### **Special Coffee and Conversation Highlights City's Form of Government**

On Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, City Manager Charles R. Strome, City Historian Barbara Davis and former City Manager Peter A. Korn were guests at a Coffee and Conversation sponsored by the League of Women Voters at the New Rochelle Public Library. They explained the history of and why New Rochelle has a professional City Manager and uses the council-manager plan. This program was co-sponsored by the Charter League.

City historian Barbara Davis began with an overview of the history of the city's government. She reported that there were town meetings until the 1820s. In 1899 the city was incorporated with a mayor, Board of Aldermen, and city council. As the city grew exponentially in the 1920s, a more modern and effective form of government was needed. A Charter Commission was formed in 1928 and it

recommended a mayor and a council of five who then would hire a manager to run the city, thus trying to end the problems of partisanship in the then current form of government. The manager would run the government following the wishes of the council. This council-manager form of government was adopted by the citizens in November of 1929 and put into effect in 1932.



Our current city manager, Charles R. Strome, went on to explain how this government now works. Today there are 6 council members, each representing different neighborhoods in New Rochelle. The mayor represents the city as a whole and this group of seven sets policy and hires a manager to carry out this policy. According to Strome, “New Rochelle has one of the strongest council-manager form of governments in the country.” He described how it is not run like a business since “it does not make money,” but instead provides basic services such as police, fire, public works, and parks and recreation. It has 600 employees compared to White Plains, which has 900 and is a smaller city. The budget for next year was set November 10<sup>th</sup> at \$140 million based on revenue projections by the city manager. Mr. Strome encouraged those with issues of policy to be sure to contact their city council representatives. This information can be found at: <http://www.newrochelleny.com/90/City-Council>.

The program finished with an overview of the council manager form of government by former city manager Peter Korn, a New Rochelle League member.



He reported that 55% of the cities use this form of government. He discussed the many advantages of the council-manager form of government. He pointed out how the manager brings a long-range vision to the city. The manager also works to ensure equity in the delivery of services. The manager works hard to build consensus especially as the city grows and changes. This will be the first of several community events celebrating the 85th anniversary of this form of government and explaining how it works in New Rochelle.

NRTV recorded this roundtable discussion and it was shown on Optimum Channel 75 and Verizon FIOS Channel at the end of February.

For the next Coffee and Conversation, Dr. Brian Osborne, Supt. of New Rochelle Schools will be the speaker on March 17<sup>th</sup> and Mark Jerome, president of Monroe College, will be the speaker in April.

### **Other School Budget Review Sessions**

The community is invited to three School Budget Review sessions at the New Rochelle High School Library, 265 Clove Road, New Rochelle at 7:00 pm. The first will be on March 9<sup>th</sup>, the second on March 14<sup>th</sup>, and the third on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Community discussion is welcome at these sessions. This schedule is also posted on the district website: [www.nred.org](http://www.nred.org).

### **NYS League of Women Voters Lobby Day**

Mark your calendars for Lobby Day 2017 on **April 25** in Albany. We will hear from our issue specialists on "hot topics" and coordinate visits with your own legislators to lobby on issues.

### **State League Provides Google Group to Keep Up with Legislative Issues and League Actions**

You want to take action? Keep informed on legislative issues and League action? Join the new Google group. See information below or email [Jennifer@lwvny.org](mailto:Jennifer@lwvny.org) to sign up.



The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle

# Spring Open House, “Sips ‘n’ Civility”

Thursday, March 30, 2017

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Irish Benevolent Society Hall

38 Division St., New Rochelle

An evening for sharing great company, ideas,  
cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

We welcome you and your ideas as we plan for the future. Please join us and bring a friend as we celebrate:

- ❖ Our new members
- ❖ Women’s History Month, especially the history of the LWVNR League
- ❖ Our contributions to the community and our efforts to defend our democracy

RSVP at [LWVNewRochelle@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNewRochelle@gmail.com). Visit us at [www.lwvnewro.org](http://www.lwvnewro.org).

The League of Women Voters®, a nonpartisan, grassroots organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

## **Westchester Fair and Affordable Housing Expo March 15**

Westchester County's 2017 Fair and Affordable Housing Expo will take place on Saturday, March 15 at the Westchester County Center in White Plains from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

"The Expo is a great way to get free and useful information about fair and affordable housing opportunities in Westchester," said County Executive Robert P. Astorino. "It's also an excellent opportunity to meet with housing professionals, including mortgage lenders and not-for-profit credit counselors."

Throughout the day, visitors can get answers to the following questions:

- How much do I need for a down payment?
- What are my rights with respect to fair and affordable housing?
- What is the importance of credit and a good credit score?
- What is the role of the not-for-profit counselor, the realtor, the inspector, the attorney and the lender?
- Can I get help with my down payment and closing costs?
- Is it better to rent or own?

At 1 p.m. a workshop on Fair and Affordable Housing (FAH) will focus on the Westchester County Housing Settlement and on Homeseeker Online, a Web site where visitors are provided with information about affordable homeownership and rental apartment opportunities in Westchester. Those attending can also learn about FAH and fair lending, affirmative marketing and the FAH application and selection process.

For more information on the Expo, contact Westchester Residential Opportunities at [ganderson@wroinc.org](mailto:ganderson@wroinc.org); 428-4507, ext. 314 or the Housing Action Council at [hac@affordablehomes.org](mailto:hac@affordablehomes.org); 332-4144. Visit [Homeseeker Online](#) to download the Expo flier in English and Spanish.



## **LEAGUE'S STATE CONVENTION IS COMING! June 9-11**

The 57<sup>th</sup> State League Convention is scheduled for June 10-11, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Express in Liverpool, NY (just off the Thruway near Syracuse). Materials will be coming soon.

### **Field Trip:**

To celebrate women achieving the right to vote in 1917 in NYS, the state League is organizing a field trip from Liverpool to Seneca Falls on Friday, June 9 (day before Convention actually begins). This is will a separate charge and everyone is welcome (not just convention attendees); tours of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton home, Women's Hall of Fame and the Women's Rights National History Park (and Wesleyan Chapel), as well as dinner and a speaker at an historic restaurant in Seneca Falls, will be included. You will need to be in Liverpool by noon on Friday to join this trip. Watch for more information in the registration kit.

### **Workshops:**

Workshops will be organized for Friday evening, June 9, and Saturday morning, June 10. Please email the state office ([Katrina@lwvny.org](mailto:Katrina@lwvny.org)) with specific topics you would like us to offer as a workshop during Convention. Local Leagues and members can also offer caucuses or info sessions to share their own concerns or successes and times will be available for these also.



**Join THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE**

The League depends on the work and financial support of all of its members 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 with access to members-only online resources, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership

Renewal

Individual: \$60.00 year

Household\*: \$85.00 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**

\$100.00

\$50.00

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this application with your check(s) to:**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE  
46 LONG VUE  
NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10804**

**OR**

**Join and/or donate using PayPal on our website: [www.lwvnewro.org](http://www.lwvnewro.org)**