

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY

BULLETIN

August 2021

SAVE THE DATES!

VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL SESSION ON THE REDISTRICTING

of the state's congressional and legislative districts.

Thursday, August 19, at 7 pm.

FALL KICK-OFF LUNCHEON

Friday, September 17, 11:30 am.

Turf Tavern, Scotia, NY

President's Letter

Letter from the President

Dear LWWSC Friends,

I hope that your summer has been going well, and you've been able to enjoy all the pleasures that summer in the Northeast brings. Our League has been busy with plans for the Fall season including several local candidate forums, expanding citizenship tutoring.....AND getting ready for our LWWSC Fall Luncheon! We have all missed our usual luncheons and dinners over the past months, but we are now safely able to schedule our Fall Kick-Off event. **Please Save the Date for Friday, September 17 at the Turf Tavern in Scotia.** Our speaker will be Maribeth (Molly) Cahill, Senior Officer of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services field office in Albany. She will talk with us about the duties and responsibilities of immigration services, which is a part of the Department of Homeland Security. We also hope to invite several of the Citizenship Mentoring Group's former students who have now become US citizens.

There is still time for summer events, however. Our League, along with the Albany, Saratoga, and Rensselaer Leagues, have received a grant from LWWNYS, and will be presenting a virtual educational session on the upcoming redistricting of the state's congressional and legislative districts. This event, **End Gerrymandering: Focus on the NYS Capital District** which will be held on Thursday, **August 19 at 7:00 pm**, will be open to all organizations and individuals who have an

interest in seeing districts drawn by communities of interest rather than political interests. I would like to thank the Albany, Saratoga, and Rensselaer for their lengthy planning efforts to see that this important event takes place.

You will hear more information about both of these events in the coming weeks. In the meantime, I hope you will put both on your calendars.

In League,
Ann Hatke

End Gerrymandering: Focus on the NYS Capital District

The Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady chapters of the League of Women Voters in coordination with the One Person, One Vote Coalition will hold an educational session on the upcoming redistricting of the state's congressional and legislative districts. This one hour virtual program will take place on August 19 at 7 p.m. It is open to all organizations and individuals who are interested in participating in an effort to have district lines drawn consistent with communities of interest above partisan interests. Political Scientist and League member, Steve Elliott, will be the key presenter.

“We are offering this program in an effort to encourage and increase public participation as their districting process goes forward. It is an opportunity for all who seek fair districts to learn how to be an effective advocate on behalf of their interests,” said Vicente Alfonso, Vice President of the Albany Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He was joined by April Land, Interim CEO of the Capital Area Urban League, Judy Meyer, Co-President of League of Women Voters Rensselaer, Linda Gush, Co-President of League of Women Voters Saratoga, Patricia Sibilina, President of League of Women Voters of Albany County and Ann Hatke, President of League of Women Voters Schenectady.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/IP1VRedistricting> to register

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”

LWVNYS DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) Task Force
(open to all members)

Speaking for our DEI Task Force members, **I thank all attendees of our first sponsored workshop, held on June 7th**, which advanced the understanding of “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” and what that means for our League. Plus, we had the opportunity to introduce the concept of our collective journey toward “a more inclusive and equitable organization”. Member feedback from over 150 attendees throughout NYS, through pre and post workshop surveys and Breakroom discussions, were highly appreciated. The Task Force eagerly awaits the opportunities in the upcoming months to delve into. A post-conference handout, which includes the Breakroom inputs submitted by meeting recorders, will be emailed to all attendees. It will also be posted subsequently on the LWVNYS website as conference materials along with the workshop recording.

I am excited to announce the next workshop, the first of two upcoming. Members of the DEI Task Force and I have worked to coordinate with the best-selling author and notable racial justice educator, Debby Irving. The first workshop is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 17th at 7:00pm**, entitled, **“I’m A Good Person. Isn’t That Enough?”** It serves as Ms. Irving’s requisite session for engaging in further work with organizations such as ours. *Registration is open to all members of NYS Leagues as the intended audience, with a deadline of August 15th to join us:*

Busy at that time? Sign up anyway! You will have a chance to view the main portion of Ms. Irving’s presentation for up to 7 days thereafter.

Regina Tillman
State League Diversity Chair

POLL WORKERS NEEDED IN SCHENECTADY COUNTY

The Schenectady County Board of Election is currently seeking friendly, reliable, and detail orientated people to serve as Poll Workers for future elections. Poll workers are responsible for performing a variety of tasks including: signing in voters, assisting voters, and documenting information on appropriate forms. Bilingual individuals, speaking fluent English and Spanish, are also needed and encouraged to apply.

In order to serve as a poll worker you must be a registered voter, resident of Schenectady County and attend a two to three hour annual certification training. Poll workers are paid: \$35 for training and \$210 for an full Election day (Hours are 5am-9:30pm).

If interested in this position call Laura or Loretta by email at pollworker@schenectadycounty.com.



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, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022

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 _____ \$20 Full time HS 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 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.

Judicial _____ Health _____ Observer Corps _____ Fund Raising _____

Citizenship Mentoring Group _____ Environment _____ Education _____

Voter Services: Register Voters _____ Candidate Forums _____ Voter Information _____

Computer Skills: Graphics/Layout _____ Data Bases _____ Website Work _____

Facebook _____ Electronic Publicity _____ Other Technical Skill(Describe) _____

Other areas of interest _____