



**Letter from the President – March 2022**

Dear LWVSC Friends,

This evening – March 1 – will be President Biden’s first State of the Union address. After reading various news sources commenting on what topics the President will include in his speech, I wondered how those topics would synch with some of the League of Women Voters’ major positions.

Certainly, President Biden will speak about the recent Russian invasion of the democratic republic of Ukraine. Crossing Ukraine’s borders was presented as a “peace-keeping” mission, but soon became a full-fledged war, and has since targeted innocent civilians and created a serious refugee crisis. LWV has a lengthy position on International Relations that includes support of the United Nations; arms control measures that would reduce the risk of war and prohibit the use of nuclear weapons; membership in treaty organizations such as NATO; and the use of preventive diplomacy.

Climate change initiatives were one of Biden’s major campaign promises, and LWV has taken a significant position on the endangered climate as well. Since the 1960’s the LWV has worked for the passing of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and various regulatory programs.

The pandemic will likely be another topic in the State of the Union Address. In the past two years, Biden’s administration has ensured that workers, families, and businesses hit hard by the pandemic would have federal financial support. Based on current science, vaccines were developed to protect against the virus. The LWV has strong positions on both health care and employment protections, especially for the most vulnerable populations.

As I mentioned in my last Bulletin Letter, the League is still waiting for the passage of the Voting Rights Act and the Equal Rights Amendment. These issues are the very basis of the LWV mission and goals, but political wrangling has prevented their passage. The State of the Union Address would be the perfect place to remind Congress and the American people about their importance.

In League,

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

All LWVSC members are invited to attend the April Board Meeting on **Wednesday, April 13 at 3:00 pm**. The meeting will be held in the Swanker Board Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) at the Honorable Karen B. Johnson Library. In addition to our regular business, we will discuss and hopefully reach consensus on the LWVNYS Election Administration Structure study. The agenda for the meeting and materials related to the concurrence will be sent to you by email.

Refreshments will be served!



Ann Hatke

Ann Hatke, LWVSC, president, was invited to talk with the Scotia Rotary Club at their monthly meeting on March 3. She was asked to give a brief history of the League of Women Voters and their mission and goals in honor of Women's History Month.

## Citizenship Mentoring Program

We've recently received some very good news about our citizenship preparation program. LWVUS has awarded us a 2022 New Citizens Voter Registration Grant; this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row that we have received this grant.

In addition, after a 2-year break due to Covid-19, CMG will resume in-person classes at the Phyllis Bornt Library.

Our first session will begin on Saturday, April 1!

**Members Present:** Ann Hatke, Connie Young, Cheryl Nechamen, Helen MacDonald, Linda Doody, Johanna Petersen, Maxine Brisport, Judy Middelkoop, Eleanor Aaronstein, Sandra McGarraugh, Susan Spring, Nicole Salamone, Julia Holcomb, Joan Elliott, Heide Westergard

LWVSC concurred with the national league's position "Campaign to make democracy work" and also with healthcare and digital equity positions. (Report due March 1, 2022). Two remaining positions, voting for incarcerated people and election administrative structure, will be discussed separately since the report is not due until May 1, 2022.

The following policies were briefly explained:

Cheryl Nechamen explained that the The League of Women Voters is a *nonpartisan* citizen activist organization that operates at the local, state, and national level. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League of Women Voters has two separate and distinct roles.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy- Sandra McGarraugh

Taking Action- Ann Hatke After studying an issue, we use the League's positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest.

Please note the following changes to our positions:

Local Government- add the SMHA (Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority) to entities to be monitored (Joan Elliot offered to attend eviction proceedings)

Local Education- Ensure school districts are adequately prepared and staffed for **relevant** education

Environmental Issues- add emergency to global climate change

Health Services- add the following position: educate the public about the Ellis/St. Peter's merger and its impact on end of life procedures.

The fully appended and amended document can be found on the LWVSC website.

# Sponsored by the Schenectady Branch of the AAUW



Tuesday, March 22, 7:00p.m.  
 Speaker: Elaine Auerbach  
 “From Innocence to Activism”

Elaine Auerbach will discuss her new book,

*Dirty Linen: How Women Sued the Reader's Digest and Changed History.*

Register for this zoom program at:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuceCpQTOpE90cqNohfWoYGul0w\\_1GJmif](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuceCpQTOpE90cqNohfWoYGul0w_1GJmif)

The Reader's Digest was in homes across the world, quite probably in your home as well. The author was delighted when she joined the huge publishing empire as an assistant editor right out of college. What she found there surprised her and will surprise you as well. The results changed the author, the Reader's Digest, the media and even history.

Today, the situation for women in the workplace seems to be going backwards.

Join Elaine and AAUW in an “Empowering Women” story as she reveals how she and other women stepped forward to advance equality, and what needs to be done now. Elaine Auerbach spent thirteen years as an editor with the Reader's Digest, followed by nearly three decades as a communications professional at PepsiCo, a leading consumer food and beverage company. She received her undergraduate degree from Douglass College/Rutgers the State University and her MBA from Pace University. She is the mother of two adult children and lives with her husband in Arizona.

Read more about Elaine at <https://www.elaineauerbachauthor.com>.

Her book is available from Wildcat Press <https://www.wildcatpress.com>

in paperback, or from Amazon on Kindle. Signed copies are available from the author, email [elaineauerbachauthor@gmail.com](mailto:elaineauerbachauthor@gmail.com)



## Let's get together in person again!

League Regional Training Workshops  
Capital Region: SATURDAY, MARCH 26

The League of Women Voters of NYS invites all members to come to training workshops being held throughout the state on Saturdays from 10:00 - 4:00 in March and early April. All members are invited to attend any or all of the workshops. All local Leagues board members are strongly encouraged to attend at least part of the day. Lunch will be provided and will allow for informal networking among the attendees.

March 26, Capital Region \$15 (registration deadline March 18)  
The Blake Annex, 1 Steuben Place, Albany

### Workshop Sessions:

It's All About the Ask: Tactics for Increasing Membership and Cultivating Leadership

The 411 on Vote 411: A Beginners Guide to the New Platform (Hands-on Workshop)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Past, Present and Future

Engaging Youth Through Civic Collaborations

Zooming into 2022: How to Successfully Host a Virtual or Hybrid Candidate Forum forum.

Hacking Social Media: Getting the best use out of your League's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts

Let's Take Action: How, When and Why?

All attendees are required to show proof of vaccination and booster and be willing to wear a mask. The deadlines for registration are stricter than usual as we will not hold the workshops at a specific location if we do not have enough people registered so we need to ask for all to register early.

Send completed form ([click here](#)) and check payable to LWVNYS to:  
League of Women Voters of NYS, 62 Grand St, Albany, NY 12207

Or register, with credit card, by fax 518-465-0812

## REGISTRATION FORM

**March 26, Capital Region \$15 (registration deadline March 18)**

The Blake Annex,  
1 Steuben Place, Albany, NY 12207

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ League: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Position on local League Board, if Board member: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form with check payable to LWVNYS or provide credit card:

Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Or register online at:** [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/HOhq-CqnO8wQHrms7-w8Kg](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/HOhq-CqnO8wQHrms7-w8Kg)

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President	Ann Hatke
Vice-President	Open
Secretary	Heide Westergaard
Bulletin Editor	Helen MacDonald

## Women's History Month Carrie Chapman Catt and Ida B. Wells

Originally, the LWV organization began at the National American Women Suffrage Association's 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, when President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a "league of women voters to finish the fight and aid in the reconstruction of the nation." One year later, on February 14, 1920 – the League was officially created in Chicago, Illinois.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett was a prominent journalist, activist, and researcher, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In her lifetime, she battled sexism, racism, and violence. As a skilled writer, Wells-Barnett also used her skills as a journalist to shed light on the conditions of African Americans throughout the South, including civil rights and women's suffrage. Although she was in Niagara Falls for the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), her name is not mentioned as an official founder. Late in her career Wells-Barnett focused on urban reform in the growing city of Chicago. She died on March 25, 1925.



**League of Women Voters of Albany County presents**  
**The Fight for Education Equity:**  
**Untangling Education Governance and Finance**  
**Monday, March 14, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Online**  
**Co-sponsored by the Alliance for Quality Education**

Alliance for Quality Education Executive Director  
Jasmine Gripper at the New York State Capitol.

The past two years have revealed critical gaps in education equity, confronting implicit bias, and early childhood education. Have you ever wondered who and how education decisions are made? And how those decisions and directions are financed? Please join us for an informative presentation on these topics and current issues in education with The Alliance for Quality Education ([aqeny.org](http://aqeny.org)). Executive Director Jasmine Gripper and Policy Director Marina Marcou-O'Malley will provide insight into the many layers of New York State's education governance structure, as well as the various channels and processes of education funding.

Come and learn about current issues such as critical race theory, banned books, etc in the fight for education equity. There will be time for questions and answers.

[Please register in advance.](#) You will receive a confirmation email with information for joining the meeting.



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 JANUARY 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021**

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 \_\_\_\_\_