



SUMMER 2020

The LOCAL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

Syracuse Metro LWV
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Syracuse NY 13218
Phone: (315) 396-8225
Email: lwwsyr@gmail.com
Web Sites:
Local: www.lwwsyr.org
State: www.lwwny.org
National: www.lww.org

VOTE 411

WHOSE ON YOUR BALLOT?

**CHECK YOUR
REGISTRATION**

FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

**CHECK FOR DEBATES
and FORUMS**

AND MORE

VISIT:

VOTE411.ORG

**ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

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**LWVSYR Virtual Annual Meeting
Thursday, June 18, 2020**

Although we were unable to hold an annual dinner meeting this year because of COVID-19, approximately 20 members gathered via Zoom and telephone at 5:00 pm to conduct our business meeting required by our By-Laws. We approved a Budget and a Local Program for the 2020-2021 League year, and elected officers and directors. You will find these documents in this newsletter.

Hopefully next year we can once again enjoy dinner and a program as we have done for nearly 100 years. This certainly will be a year we won't forget.



**Wednesday, August 26, 2020
5:00PM**



Zoom with us as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Grab a glass of your favorite drink and we will "Raise a Toast" to honor the women and men

who made this possible 100 years ago. We will send out details on how to join the celebration closer to the event.

BOARD NOTES

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Trymeter Carter
 Elisabeth Colvin
 Janice Gravely
 Sarah Hall
 Marcella Jones
 Cheryl & Mark Matt
 Holly Sammons
 Gracia Sears
 Dona Wonacott

Membership Renewal Reminder

It's that time again—time to renew your League membership if you have not done so as yet. Our league year runs from July 1st– June 30th. You can use the renewal form on the last page of this newsletter or pay by PayPal.
 Please note if you joined the League after January 31, 2020, your dues are current until July 1, 2021.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



**HER VOICE
HER VOTE
OUR VICTORY**

On August 26th we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. It had taken 72 years, from that milestone in 1845, when a group of 100 women and men called for a convention in Seneca Falls. Led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, they signed the *Declaration of Sentiments* noting that “all men and women are created equal.”

For the past four years the New York State League of Women Voters and local leagues across the state have been celebrating the 1917 referendum giving New York women the right to vote, the founding of the New York League of Women Voters in 1919, and finally the celebration of the 19th amendment to the US Constitution in 1920.

What would have been a final tribute for the fight for the vote on August 26, 2020, has been derailed by COVID-19 but our work continues ***in Making Democracy Work.***

Officers

Leadership Team...

Joan Durant
 Margrit Diehl
 Roberta Millert

Secretary...
 Treasurer....

Joan Littlehale
 Roberta Millert

Directors

Education...
 Membership ...

Margrit Diehl
 Erin Leigh Darnley
 Michele Jones Galvin
 Jessica Bumpus

Finance/Fundraising

Miranda Askew-Brown

Social Media ...

Joan Johnson

Publications...

Nodesia Hernandez

Public Relations...

Joan Durant

Voter Service...

Mary Kuhn

Issues & Advocacy...

Margaret Chase
 Diane Dwire

Program...
 Events Coordinator...

Carrie Penner
 Amanda Slisz

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....
 Nominating Committee...

Erin Leigh Darnley
 Chanel Turnquest
 Nodesia Hernandez
 Dorothy Wrase Hares
 Joan Littlehale
 Amanda Slisz

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information please call the League office at (315) 396-8225 or e-mail to lwwsyr@gmail.com

Diversity Statement

The Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters is committed to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, or national origin.

League of Women Voters Syracuse Metropolitan Area

Update on Census 2020

League of Women Voters Syracuse Metropolitan Area—Update on Census 2020

The **Self-response phase**, that started on March 12, 2020 has been extended until October 31, 2020 (previously it was to end on July 31, 2020). The **Nonresponse follow-up (someone comes to your home)** will be from **August 11 through October 3, 2020** (previously it was May 13-July 13).

The Census can be complete by going to www.mycensus.gov or by phone at 1-844-330-2020.

How is New York doing compared to other states? As of July 30, 2020, 58.5% households in New York have responded. When ranked with the 50 States, New York is 38 for completing the census.

What is the **response rate in LWV – Syracuse Metropolitan Area** as of July 30, 2020?

There are 62 counties in New York. Five of the six counties in the area are above the New York response rate. Details of each county (rank and % response) are as noted: Onondaga (5 -66.2%), Madison (18-61.4%), Oneida (20 -60.8%), Oswego (26-59.1%), Cortland (27-59.0%) and Cayuga (31-56.5%).

Data is also available for over 600 communities in New York. In the six counties there are 67 communities, 35 of them rank above the New York response rate. Sherrill is ranked #1 in NY State with a response rate of 80.8%. Sylvan Beach has the lowest rank in the area of 582 with a response rate of 24.9%. The response rate of each county seat is as follows: Oswego 58.0%, Auburn 56.2%, Wampsville 55.9%, Cortland 54.7%, Utica 52.1%, Syracuse 50.2%. If you need more details about each of the 6 counties and 600 communities please let me know.

UPDATE

On July 21, 2020 President Trump issued a Memorandum to remove “illegal Aliens” from the census count. This is being addressed by a number of organizations in the court system. On July 31st the Census Bureau announced the dead line for submitting your information was moved back to September 30th from October 31st so that the December 31, 2020 submission deadline could be met.

Stay Tuned- Things May Still Change!

Dorothy Wrase Hares
LWVSYR Census Reporter



Onondaga County Redistricting Update

We are disappointed that the County Legislature failed to approve an independent citizen-led redistricting commission to draw the district lines after the results of the 2020 Census numbers are counted. A plan submitted by Legislator Chris Ryan, to form such a commission was turned down by the majority party legislators. Instead the Ways and Means Committee at its July 17, 2020 meeting opted for a plan that “recommends” the Floor Leaders and the County Executive appoint committee members. To read the discussion on this new plan go to the Onondaga County Legislature website. You will find it under July 2020 Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes.

It is too late for any plan to be put on the November ballot for citizens to approve or reject. The concept of “one person, one vote” is out the window for another ten years.

Thank you to all who contacted their county legislator in support of a non-partisan, independent, citizen-led process and those who attended rallies in support of this concept. Thank you to Common Cause NY for all their efforts to promote fair maps for central New York. A special thank you to new league member Mark Matt who testified on behalf of the League in support of the Ryan plan at the July meeting of the Onondaga County Legislature.

It is expected a new redistricting plan will be voted on by the Legislature in the next few months.

LWVNYS STATE BOARD UPDATES—JULY 2020



Healthcare Position Update

At the state Convention in June 2019, the delegates voted to update the current state League position on healthcare financing. A committee was formed and has been working hard to gather information and materials for a consideration of this update.

By early September, all materials will be distributed to the local Leagues to use with members to discuss this updated position. The materials will include potential speakers for presentation of the materials at a meeting.

Local Leagues should schedule a membership meeting sometime between September 2020 and March 1, 2021 to discuss the update.

Amanda Slisz and Dorothy Wrase Hares will be leading the Syracuse League's efforts to update our position on healthcare financing. If you are interested in joining the committee contact us at lwwsyr@gmail.com

NYS Redistricting Commission Update

The LWVNYS recently testified at a joint hearing on New York State's first independent redistricting commission process. We presented comments on the need for transparency and accountability in the redistricting process as well as the need for support for the commission so it can be effective. Our good government partners also testified, Common Cause called for constitutional amendments to reform the process, and Citizens Union agrees with our position that at this point we should not be seeking to amend the process the voters approved in 2014 but instead try to make sure the it is allowed to work as intended.

However, when the Legislature met the week of July 20th they did just that! The new proposal changes the voting structure so that a simple majority can approve the maps without having input from both major political parties. It also takes away some other protections from the minor party like allowing them bi-partisan executive directors.

If the amendment does pass, it would not take effect until January 2022, after the maps will have to be drafted and submitted to the legislature.

To learn more about the proposed amendment, go to the state league website, www.lwny.org. You will find it under "Our Work" - Redistricting.



Both houses of the New York Legislature recently passed seven important reform bills designed to help New Yorkers access the vote safely and fairly during the present pandemic and beyond.

- A8280 - Would bring automatic voter registration to New York
- S8782- Increases the number of early voting sites
- S8015D- Expands the definition of illness for absentee voting
- S8783A- Gives voters more time to request an absentee ballot
- S8370B- Allows voters to fix defects on absentee ballots
- S8799A- Limited fix for postmark issue for absentee ballots
- S6302A- Require notice of ensuing election's date and time to be in bold type starting next year

The governor has yet to sign these bills into law. We urge you to call Governor Cuomo at 518-474-8390 and tell him to sign these bills to make voting easier and safer for all New Yorkers!

The League of Women Voters is a member of Let NY Vote, a nonpartisan statewide coalition of grassroots networks, civil rights and civil liberties organizations, re-entry communities, good government groups, unions, social service providers, immigrant rights groups' and every day citizens fighting to improve our elections by making registering and voting more accessible for every eligible New Yorker.

The LWV of the Syracuse Metro Area's Proposed Budget for 2020-2021					
INCOME		2019-2020 Budget		Estimated Actual 2019- 2020	Proposed 2020-2021
A. Dues	1. Individuals members (63 members @ \$60)	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,301.00	\$ 3,780.00	
	2. Household (7 households @ \$85)	\$ 800.00	\$ 879.00	\$ 595.00	
	Subtotal	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,180.00	\$ 4,375.00	
B. Contributions	1.Member	\$ 600.00	\$ 559.00	\$ 400.00	
	2. Non-member	\$ 360.00	\$ 97.00	\$ 240.00	
	Subtotal	\$ 960.00	\$ 656.00	\$ 640.00	
C. Elections	1.Election Reporting		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
	2.Monitoring Elections	\$ 450.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
	Subtotal	\$ 450.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	
D. Fundraising (leg breakfast)	Subtotal	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	
E. Grants -Voter	1. Gifford / Get Out the Vote		\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	
	2. Naturalization LWV National	\$ 1,760.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1209.00	
	3. Student Voter Reg LWV	\$ 984.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 444.00	
New Line	4. NLC Grant Census			\$ 1,600.00	
New Line	5. LWV of NY Grant			\$ 1,000.00	
	Subtotal	\$ 2,744.00	\$ 6,825.00	\$ 9,053.00	
F. Anniversary Celebration		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,634.00	\$ -	
G. From Reserve	1. NY Education Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 254.00	\$ 1,000.00	
New Line	a. ACLU Get Out the Vote		\$ 750.00	\$ 80.00	
	2. Geddes Savings Acct.	\$ 3,353.00	\$ -	\$ -	
New Line	3. Surplus from Checking		\$ -	\$ 4,932.50	
	Subtotal	\$ 3,853.00	\$ 1,004.00	\$ 6,012.50	
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 13,557.00	\$ 18,899.00	\$ 20,830.50	
EXPENSES		2019-2020 Budget	Estimated Actual	Proposed	2020-2021
A. Per Member Payment	1. National LWV (\$32 per member)	\$ 2,272.00	\$ 2,176.00	\$ 2,352.00	
70 Individual HH	7 Additional Lifetime	2	2	2	
	2. State LWV (\$23.00per member)	\$ 1,420.00	\$ 1,565.00	\$ 1,690.50	
	Subtotal	\$ 3,692.00	\$ 3,741.00	\$ 4,042.50	
B. Operating Costs	1. General Supplies /	\$ 175.00	\$ 107.70	\$ 175.00	
	2. Postage & PO Box	\$ 210.00	\$ 206.00	\$ 250.00	
	Subtotal	\$ 385.00	\$ 313.70	\$ 425.00	
C. Board & Administrative Tools					
	1. IT Support	\$ 325.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	
	2. Board Tools(Website & Mail Chimp)	\$ 400.00	\$ 555.00	\$ 600.00	
	3. Finance Drive & Fundraiser	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
	4. Membership	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	
	5. Public Relations	\$ 250.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 250.00	
	Subtotal	\$ 2,475.00	\$ 620.00	\$ 2,650.00	
D. Delegates: State/National Conventions		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	
E. Local Voter	1.Supplies & Printing	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	
F. Educational Activities	1.Publications& Media	\$ 125.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 125.00	
	2.Program	\$ 500.00	\$ 34.00	\$ 500.00	
	a. 100th Anniversary	\$ 600.00	\$ 4,267.00	\$ -	
	3. Who's Who	\$ 120.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00	
	4. Voter Service	\$ 1,760.00	\$ 963.00	\$ 10,513.00	
Will be combined w/ Voter	5. Student Voter Reg	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 481.00		
	6. Youth Activities / Students Inside Albany	\$ 850.00	\$ -	\$ 850.00	
New expense this year	7. VOTE 411		\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	
	Subtotal	\$ 4,955.00	\$ 5,924.00	\$ 12,113.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 13,157.00	\$ 10,648.70	\$ 20,830.50	

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

2020-2021 LOCAL ISSUES/POSITIONS

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

- Promote greater citizen participation in the political process by encouraging citizens to become knowledgeable about the issues and to actively lobby elected officials.
- Encourage individuals to exercise their right to vote especially among under-represented populations and young people

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Study and support where appropriate legislation, which promotes proposals to modernize local government by sharing services among villages, towns, public schools, the City of Syracuse, and Onondaga County
- Support efforts to contain sprawl with planned growth throughout Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse
- Support an independent citizen led redistricting commission for Onondaga County

SOCIAL POLICY

- Monitor the state school aid formula and its implications for upstate school districts and the Big 5 city districts
- Promote the economic growth of Syracuse and Onondaga County in order to improve the quality of life for all
- Monitor the I 81 project to ensure that hiring is as local as possible including equitable hiring of people of color
- Support WiFi and Broadband that guarantees safe technology throughout the central New York Region
- Promote a single-payer healthcare system for all New Yorkers
- Promote educational efforts dealing with domestic violence and the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Onondaga County

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Support for green initiatives to protect natural resources through green technology and waste reduction, reuse and recycling efforts
- Support efforts to facilitate improvement projects for Onondaga Lake and its watershed including monitoring and support of the planned walking and biking paths looping around Onondaga Lake and the Erie Canal Trail Way

LOCAL SUPPORT FOR STATEWIDE ISSUES/STUDIES

- Promote improved training for poll workers, adequate staffing at polling places, and the use of split shifts for election workers
- Promote improved election processes which extend and encourage voting, including permanent no excuse absentee voting balloting and Election Day registration
- Monitor Early Voting to ensure it is utilized by providing convenient and adequate polling sites
- Promote efforts to simplify the procedures and format for obtaining petition signatures for candidates and potential candidates
- Promote and encourage meaningful campaign finance reform
- Promote the creation and support for a New York State independent redistricting commission
- Promote the creation of an independent and enforcing ethics commission
- Promote meaningful reform of public authorities
- Promote additional legislative rules reform
- Promote and encourage meaningful property tax reform

VOTER SERVICES 2019-2020 Annual Report

The objectives of voter services are to encourage citizens to register and to vote, to provide voters with accurate, timely and interesting nonpartisan information on elections and the political process. In 2019-2020 the League accomplished these objectives through a number of activities.

Onondaga Votes! a nonpartisan group representing many local organization are interested in educating registered voters to actually vote. The NYCLU and Delta Torch Foundation provided grants which made it possible to fund the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) project covering Ward 19, District 2 & 5 and Ward 18, District 2 in the City of Syracuse. The LWNV Victoria Woodhull GOTV Award was given for the outstanding effort by Onondaga Votes! A grant from National League of Cities is funding Census 2020 effort to increase completion of the census on the Southside of Syracuse. An additional project is working with NYS Department of Correction and Community Supervision to restore voting rights to parolees' receiving a pardon to vote.

Volunteers attended 16 Naturalization Ceremonies held in the United States District Court and New York State Supreme Court. Newly naturalized citizens received help completing voter registration forms.

The League received three additional grants from the League of Women Voters of US: Youth Voters Registration Project, New Citizens Voter Registration and LWNV to GOTV in Syracuse.

Voters' education was accomplished through the use of editorials published by the Syracuse Post Standard, moderating a candidate forum for Onondaga County District Attorney & Syracuse Common Council Race and participating with Onondaga Votes! to GOTV

Voter Registration events occurred at the Justice Center, 2 High Schools, NY State Fair, Jamesville Penitentiary, Black Lives Matter events and Onondaga Libraries.

The League produced an on-line *Voter Guide* featuring Federal, Onondaga County and Syracuse candidates.

The League provided service to the Syracuse Housing Tenant organizations by being a neutral monitor tenant elections.

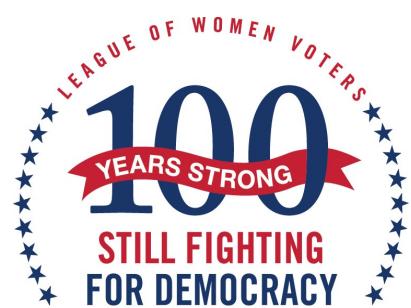
The *2020 Who's Who* was published and distributed through out Onondaga County. The *Who's Who* provides the community with an easy resource of governmental addresses, names and telephone numbers.

A special thanks to all of the numerous volunteers representing LWV, Onondaga Votes!, NAACP, CNY Solidarity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Dunbar Association, NYCLU, Beauchamp Library and Southside TNT who made the objectives of voter services obtainable this past year.

What's upcoming for 2020 - 2021?

- When we are again able to gather Naturalization Ceremonies, voter Registration and education opportunities will continue.
- Continue to GOTV working with residence on Syracuse Southside.

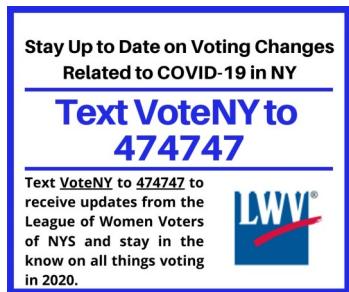
Joan Durant
Voter Services





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA
* PO BOX 11862
SYRACUSE NY 13218**

Summer 2020



LWVSYR Membership/Renewal Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

E-mail _____ **Date** _____

Individual Level....\$60

Household Level*....\$8

Student Level, **... Free Syracuse Metro Area League of Women Voters
PO Box 11862

Student EVER **YES** **PO BOX 113218**
Syracuse, NY 13218

**** Full time student 16 – 25**

Full time student 16 –25

I would like to

Information call us at (315) 396-8225 or visit us at

Information can be at www.123RF.com or www.123RF.org