

# UPDATE

ISSUE 2022, NO. 1 WINTER

PO BOX 426, COOPERSTOWN, NY 13326

**RENEW TODAY!** If you haven't renewed your annual membership please do so today. You can download a registration form at [www.LWVCooperstown.org](http://www.LWVCooperstown.org) or contact [Membership@LWVCooperstown.org](mailto:Membership@LWVCooperstown.org).

## INSIDE

*Program Planning 2022! We need your guidance*..... 2

*Redistricting in NY State and Otsego County*..... 3

*Learn More about Hemlock Woolly Adegid* ..... 3

*Thank You Donors*..... 4

## COMING UP

- February 14: Happy 102nd Birthday to the LWVUS!*
- February 16: Program Planning—help plan the League's work for the next year.*
- February 21, 1-2:30 pm: OCCA training for identifying Hemlock Woolly Adegid.*
- March 2, LWV Board Meeting 6 pm.*
- March 15: Election Day Village of Cooperstown. Noon-9pm; Cooperstown Fire Hall, 24 Chestnut St.*
- April 18: Nominating petitions due for local school board elections.*
- April 20, 6 pm: LWV Cooperstown Annual Meeting.*
- May 17: School Board Elections and Budget votes.*

*From Our Co-Presidents*

## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the League Year!

**P**rogram Planning time is here! And what makes that so wonderful? It's your chance to help plan the League's action for the next two years. The League is truly a grassroots organization and one aspect of our "grassroots-ness" is the annual process known as program planning. The LWVUS ask all League members to submit their ideas about the work the League should pursue over the next two years. The national League then presents the results to delegates to the national convention and incorporates those ideas into the LWVUS's plans for legislative action and lobbying. Leagues also work together to gain support for other programs and positions and bring them to the convention floor for the delegates consideration.



*Liane Hirabayashi & Patty MacLeish*

We can all be part of the process by attending the annual Program Planning meeting. We plan to hold it virtually on Zoom, and we think we have worked out a plan that will work on that platform. We are requesting that you do a bit of homework to help you prepare for the meeting, but it's not a requirement for attending.

We won't only be talking about national issues, but will also spend some time looking at local issues, too. We will use the same process to determine what our membership thinks our League should be doing locally. Are we working hard enough to protect our natural resources? Can we do more to improve and preserve our local environment? Are we promoting voting among youth and the underserved? Are we safeguarding our schools and libraries against threats of censorship? Are we including your particular passion in our work? It will all be up for discussion on February 16.

We are also very excited to announce that we are moving forward with a plan to help strengthen and rebuild the Oneonta League. Many of you participated in our conversations on this topic last fall. We now have a committee—Stephanie Bauer and Roz Thomas led by chairwoman Maureen Murray—who have met with the LWVO Leadership Team and the LWVNY and are in the final stages of developing a plan. We will need your help to carry out this plan, but we think that working together we can help our League neighbor revitalize and keep both our Leagues strong and a force in this county. We hope you will support this effort

*Liane Hirabayashi & Patty MacLeish*

# Program Planning 2022: Join Us on February 16

“I can’t do everything!”

You have probably felt that way, screeched that complaint out in frustration, or heard someone say that to you!

The League has learned that indeed we can’t do EVERYTHING because, well, we can’t. There are many issues that we can potentially advocate for (see box below), but if we spread ourselves too thin trying to do EVERYTHING, we run the risk of doing nothing. To solve this problem, the League has developed a process called Program Planning that enables all Leagues to express their support of issues for focus. It’s a grassroots, bottom-up process. The decisions our League makes at our Program Planning on Wednesday, February 16, will be reported to the LWWUS Board. That board will then decide which programs will be recommended to the delegates at the national convention in June. The delegates job will be to assure that we focus on the most important and timely issues.

League members do not need a comprehensive knowledge of all League positions in order to take part in the process; all that is necessary is to know where to find the positions. Why? Because the League only takes action when it has a position on a public policy issue. Find a more detailed description of all

these positions at [www.lww.org/impact-issues](http://www.lww.org/impact-issues). (Pages 15-16 describes these positions “in brief.”) Once you’ve done that, visit <https://lwwny.org/> (click on Our Work>Impact on Issues) to find the LWWNY positions).

This year the LWWUS Board recommends that local Leagues support continuing the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® as its program for 2022-2024. (Learn more about the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® (<https://www.lww.org/making-democracy-workr>.) LWWUS convention delegates first selected the Campaign as its focus in 2020. The Campaign addressed core League positions around Voting Rights and Election Reform including ensuring a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters. Leagues at every level work to protect and advance voting rights and election reform at this critical time for our democracy.

The LWWCA’s program planning meeting on February 16 is our opportunity to let the national League know whether our League supports the decision to continue to emphasize the Making Democracy Work® Campaign and what we will, as a local League, do to support Making Democracy Work® in our community. The LWWUS will compile the results of the Program Planning meetings held throughout the U.S., and the LWWUS board will prepare a list of items to recommend to the board for adoption. Later, at the LWWUS convention in June, the delegates will review these “recommended items” and vote to accept or reject them.

## But wait, there’s more!

Program planning is also an opportunity to let the national League learn what other issues we want to emphasize or what positions we think we should change or update. This year the LWWNY would like us to encourage the LWWUS board to consider supporting two changes to existing positions through the concurrence process: healthcare and broadband access. The first concerns changing the language in the existing LWWUS Healthcare position. These changes would allow local and state Leagues to support safe staffing in hospitals and nursing homes, regular evaluations of all health programs, respect for patient decisions (including those made prior to need), expanded delivery options and more equitable access to health care. Read the full proposal here (<https://pwm.tempurl.host/hc-concurrence/>).

The other request is to establish a “Digital Equity” position through concurrence

## LWWUS Positions

- Citizen’s Right to Vote
- DC Self-Government & Full Voting Representation
- Apportionment
- Redistricting
- Money in Politics
- Selection of the President
- Voter Representation/ Electoral Systems
- Citizen’s Right to Know/ Citizen Participation
- Constitutional Amendment Proposals
- Constitutional Conventions
- Individual Liberties
- Public Policy on Reproductive Choices
- Congress
- The Presidency
- Privatization
- United Nations
- Trade
- Developing Countries
- Arms Control
- Military Policy & Defense Spending
- Natural Resources
- Resource Management
- Transfer of Federal Public Lands
- Air Quality
- Solid Waste
- Nuclear Waste
- Climate Change
- Water Resources
- Nuclear Issues
- Public Participation
- Agriculture Policies
- Equality of Opportunity
- Employment
- Fair Housing
- Nondiscrimination & Affirmative Action
- Pay Equity
- Equal Rights for Women
- Same Gender Equality
- Education
- Federal Role in Public Education
- Fiscal Policy
- Funding of Entitlements
- Health Care
- Immigration
- Meeting Basic Human Needs
- Income Assistance
- Transportation
- Housing Supply
- Child Care
- Early Intervention for Children at Risk

## LWWCA 2022 Program Planning Meeting on Zoom

Time: Feb. 16, 2022, 6 PM Eastern  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84681499487>  
Meeting ID: 846 8149 9487 Passcode: 314940  
One tap mobile  
+1 929 436 2866,,84681499487# US (New York)  
+1 312 626 6799,,84681499487# US (Chicago)  
Dial by your location  
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

with the LWV of Connecticut position on Broadband Access and Community Affairs, Public Access Media. Most state and local leagues do not have positions on digital equity and having a national position would allow them to advocate for digital equity at the state and local levels. Read the full proposal here (<https://www.lwvnm.org/broadband/>).

Our League also wants to hear from you. Please bring your thoughts and concerns about these and other issues to Program Planning Zoom meeting on February 16 at 6 pm. To help you prepare, check out our Program Planning Explainer on our website [www.lwvcooperstownarea.org](http://www.lwvcooperstownarea.org). It outlines the process and details the items we will be considering for concurrence.

Join us for Program Planning—you'll learn more about the League and get to take part in the process that will define our work here where we live, in New York state and across the nation.

## Redistricting Update —in Albany and Otsego County

After months of meetings, hearings and testimonies, the Independent Redistricting Commission, which was established after a constitutional amendment passed in 2014, could not agree on a set of maps. As a result, the IRC has abdicated its responsibilities and redistrictings for New York State has been turned over to the state Legislature. The legislature has published a set of maps for congressional districts and the state senate and assembly districts. The maps are available at [nyredistricting.org](http://nyredistricting.org). The LWVNY issued the following statement on February 1, 2022:

“New Yorkers have been completely shut out from the redistricting process. Instead of ensuring that the public has a say in what their future districts will look like, the Legislature has instead disrespected the process put in place by voters in 2014 by planning to steamroll redistricting legislation through the Assembly and Senate. New Yorkers deserve a transparent and fair redistricting process, and it is shameful that the Legislature has denied them this.

“The League of Women Voters of NYS believes that voters should choose their representatives, not that representatives should choose their voters. Partisan gerrymandering is banned under the state constitutional amendment passed in 2014, yet the maps released on the 31st and the 1st reflect a Legislature that appears to care more about favoring partisan interests than it does for fair maps.”

The League is very disappointed that for months there have been hearings and testimony by individuals and groups across the state describing their wishes and concerns about redistricting. The legislature is not bound to consider these hearings or written testimony.

Meanwhile, Otsego County is about to begin redistricting. The Otsego County Board of Representatives consists of 14 legislative districts, but the districts are not equal in population. To compensate, the county uses a system of weighted voting: each district is assigned a number of votes based on the population of the district. The representative for District 5 (Hartwick, Milford and New Lisbon), whose total population was 6,268 in 2000, has a weighted vote of 627 while the representative of District 8 (Town of Otsego) has a population of 3,900 and a weighted vote of 390. The weighted voting plan, which the LWV of Cooperstown and Oneonta opposed when it was first proposed, was established in 2003 and maintained following the 2010 census. When there is a vote, the vote of the representative of District 8 counts as 390 and that of District 5 as 627. A majority is 3,114 votes. Whether or not this form of voting will hold up in light of the state constitutional amendment on redistricting passed in 2014 is in question. The League will be following the action of the county but you can download a Toolkit prepared by the LWVNY as well as a webinar on county redistricting (<https://lwvny.org/redistricting-2021-people-powered-fair-maps-nys/#ed>).

## Help Stop Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Otsego County

Last year, an infestation of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) was found in the Oneonta area, the first new detection in Otsego County in nearly a decade. HWA is a tiny, invasive insect that produces white, woolly masses that look like small cotton balls and are easily visible on the underside of hemlock twigs near the base of the needles. HWA, which is active throughout the winter months, is a highly destructive insect, capable of wiping out large stands of ecologically important eastern hemlock trees in a fairly short time. A new HWA infestation has been found in the vicinity of Cooperstown along Otsego Lake.

In late January the Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA) and Mohican Farm held a webinar on HWA and a field training session. The webinar is available on YouTube ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I\\_ZIGnxvZpU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_ZIGnxvZpU)). The OCCA is looking for volunteers to get out in the field now to search for the HWA and will be holding an additional field training session on Monday, February 21, from 1-2:30 pm at Robert V. Riddell State Park in Oneonta. The program will cover everything you need to know to begin searching for hemlock woolly adelgid, including how to recognize hemlock trees and the woolly adelgid, how and when to search, and how to report your findings. This entire program will take place outdoors, please dress appropriately for the weather. Meet at the Gersoni Road entrance to Riddell Park (south of I-88 exit 17; 42.480498, -74.968796).

## We Asked. You Responded!

Thank you to the many members who gave additional funds to the League when paying their dues during our annual membership renewal campaign. As we mentioned in the renewal request, very little of what we collect in dues stays here with our League. What we send to LWWUS and the LWWNYS goes to support their important programs like the LWWUS Campaign for Making Democracy work and the LWWNYS's VOTE411 and lobbying in Albany. These extra funds go a long way to promoting our local work. Our members donated a total of \$560 to our local League and \$190 to the LWWNYS Education Foundation, which will be used to support our Voter Service Activities.

### Donors to Our 2022 Membership Campaign (as of Feb. 1, 2022)

|                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Stephanie & Michael Bauer       | Susan Newman                  |
| Anne & Richard Blabey           | Celia & David Oxley           |
| George & Mary Bonczek           | Nancy Pearlman & David Potter |
| Jim & Deb Dalton                | Hudi Podolsky & Jay Bosley    |
| Pat & Maryann Dietz             | Ellen Tillapaugh              |
| Liane Hirabayashi & Tom Shieber | Aviva Schneider & Peter Regan |
| Kim Jastremski & George Hovis   | Sydney Waller                 |
| Cindy Levene & Charles Egan     | Pam Washburn                  |
| Lynne Mebust                    | Rebecca Weil                  |
| Bruce & Patty MacLeish          | Laura Wetzel                  |
| Maureen Murray                  |                               |

## Last Call! The League Reads... Why We're Polarized

Calling all readers. If you would like to participate in a group reading and discussion of Ezra Klein's *Why We're Polarized*, email: Newsletter@LWVCooperstown.org, and we will contact you with all the details. Copies of the book are available at the Village Library in Cooperstown. Thanks to everyone who has already signed up.

## LWWNYS Legislative Agenda for 2022

Included in this issue is a copy of the LWWNYS Legislative Agenda for 2022. It briefly describes which issues the state League will be following this session. Later this month, the League will announce what its priorities for the session will be. If your copy is missing, you can download a version from the state website [www.lwwny.org](http://www.lwwny.org). (Click on Our Work>Legislative Agenda.)



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