March/April 2020

The LOCAL VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

Syracuse Metro LWV
PO Box 11862
Syracuse NY 13218
Phone: (315) 396-8225
Email: lwvsyr@gmail.com
Web Sites:
Local: www.lwvsyr.org
State: www.lwny.org
National: www.lwv.org

Calendar
Thursday, March 5th
First Thursday Lunch
Saturday, March 14th
LWVNY Training Meeting, Rochester
Saturday, March 21st
LWVNY Training Meeting, Binghamton
Friday, April 24th
LWVSYR Legislative Breakfast

March is Women’s History Month. This year we honor the women who fought to give us the right to vote.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Board Notes……………………………2
Voter Information………………………3
Legislative Breakfast……………………4
Legislative Priorities…………………5
Thank you Linda………………………6
Census Information……………………7
Membership Application……………8

LWVNYS Regional Workshops
March 14, 2020—Rochester
March 21, 2020—Binghamton
9:30 am-3:00 pm

Workshop Topics:
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Get Out the Vote
Keeping Youth Engaged

League members are invited to attend either the Rochester or Binghamton workshop. Please let us know of your interest in attending by emailing us at lwvsyr@gmail.com or 315-396-8225.

Syracuse Metro League of Women Voters
First Thursday Lunch & Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2020
Noon to 1:00 PM
Community Library of Dewitt & Jamesville
Community Room 2 (downstairs)
5110 Jamesville Road
Jamesville NY 13078

Please note that we have been trying to find an alternate location for our monthly meetings for some time now that our growing numbers have made parking and ordering off the menu difficult at Tony’s. It was suggested that we try a brown bag lunch where everyone brings their own lunch. Since the library was not available on Wednesday, we will be meeting on the first Thursday.

Topic of the Day
2020 Legislative Priorities

Please join us - all are welcome

RSVP BY Monday, March 2, 2020
Email us at lwvsyr@gmail.com or give us a call at 315-396-8225 with your reservation.
Welcome New Members

Dorina Armani
Karen Chisholm
Theresa Harper
Debra Schoening
Sterling Waters
Christine Weisenburger
Sandra Wiggins
Rosita Williams

Officers

Leadership Team...
Joan Durant
Joan Johnson
Margrit Diehl
Roberta Millert

Secretary...
Joan Littlehale

Treasurer...
Roberta Millert

Directors

Education
Margrit Diehl

Membership...
Erin Leigh Darnley
Michele Jones Galvin

Social Media ...
Miranda Askew-Brown

Voter Service...
Joan Durant
Issues & Advocacy...
Margaret Chase
Diane Dwire

Program...
Jennifer Blusk
Events Coordinator...
Amanda Slisz

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director...
Erin Leigh Darnley
Nominating Committee...
Chanel Turnquest
Nodesia Hernandez
Dorothy Wrase Hares
Joan Littlehale
Amanda Slisz

Save the Date - March 10, 2020

Planning is underway to honor Barbara Bartoletti for her almost 40 years as a volunteer lobbyist for the League. The event will be held at the New York State Museum. The New York State Archives Partnership Trust will co-sponsor the event. Liz Benjamin, former host of Spectrum’s Capitol Tonight, will interview Barbara in an informal conversation about Barbara’s many years of service to the League. More info to follow.

CELEBRATING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

2020 marks the final year of our 4 year celebration of the fight for the right for women to vote. We began in 1917 marking the 100th anniversary of suffrage in New York State. This was followed by the organization of the New York State League of Women Voters in 1919 and the formation of the League of Women Voters of the United States on February 14, 1920.

Stay tuned for activities our 100th Anniversary Committee is planning marking this final year of the struggle for women to gain the vote.

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.

Please let us know your email address or if your address has changed. It is the most efficient way to communicate. You will be notified of upcoming local events and LWVUS and LWVNY National & State Action Alerts and news.

Your e-mail address will not be shared or sold. Please respond to lwvsyr@gmail.com if there has been a change on how we can contact you.
April 28, 2020 NYS Presidential Primary
Polls open 6am—9pm

Dates to Remember

Mail Registration—Friday, April 3, 2020 last day to postmark an application to be able to vote in the Primary. Must be received at the Board of Elections by April 8, 2020

In Person Registration—Friday, April 3, 2020. Last day to register in person at your Board of Elections

Change of Address—April 8, 2020 last day to register in person at the Board of Elections, if you are a registered voter who has moved within New York State after April 3, 2020

Absentee Voting—April 21, 2020 Last day to apply for an absentee ballot. The absentee ballot must be received by the Board of Elections by April 27, 2020

Please note there will also be a special election in the NYS 50th Senate District to fill a vacancy.

LWVSYR & ONONDAGA VOTES!

Onondaga VOTES! is involved with the Syracuse Southside community and from Mid-March through April will be helping people complete their 2020 Census Forms. To check out how you can volunteer Click on: https://signup.com/go/XZBRRWf

Everyone needs to be counted! Volunteer your time to help people complete their 2020 Census Forms on the library’s computers. You will also have voter registration forms available for new voters to complete or if they need to change their address or wish to change their political party.

Questions? Call or email Joan Durant at 315-345-5860 or syracuselwv@gmail.com

The League of Women Voters will again be using Vote411 as our official electronic voting guide for this year’s elections. To learn who your candidates are, where they stand on the issues, as well as information on your registration status, where you vote and more information on voting just go to Vote411.org.

Thank you to Dorothy Wrase Hares for preparing the Census information found on page 7.
FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020
7:45AM-9:30AM

EMBASSY SUITES – DESTINY USA
311 HIAWATHA BLVD. SYRACUSE 13204

Breakfast Buffet— $20.00

-Come and meet your state legislative representatives-
-Learn where they stand on the issues you care about-
-Take a chance on our annual basket raffle-

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RESERVATIONS
Phone: 315-396-8225
Email: lwvsyr@gmail.com
Mail: Syracuse Metro LWV, PO Box 11862, Syracuse NY 13218

Name ______________________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________
Phone________________________ Email_____________________________________

Number of Reservations @ $20.00 _________ Total $ __________

Please make checks payable to LWV Syracuse Metro LWV

Reservations must be received by Monday, April 20, 2020
The event is open to the public
Independent Redistricting Commission

Following the completion of the census count, New York State will redraw its legislative district lines using a constitutionally mandated independent redistricting commission. This commission will require funding so that it can hire staff, acquire map making software, hold public hearings, and deliver maps to the legislature by the constitutional deadline of January 1st, 2022.

The legislature is mandated by the constitution to form the commission by February 1st of 2020. The League believes that this commission must be funded sooner rather than later so that the commission can begin hiring staff and making arrangements ahead of the release of the final census count. Included in this packet is a fact-sheet about the constitutional mandates of the commission, a letter sent to legislative leaders regarding the importance of forming the commission in a timely manner, and an estimate of what the commission could cost is executed correctly.

Ethics

Although the Public Campaign Financing Commission proposal has become law, there were many critical campaign finance reforms that were not addressed. The League believes that the new law is lacking in several significant aspects and we are continuing to advocate for additional restrictions on contributions to political parties and contributions from those doing business with the state.

The League believes that the current system of ethics enforcement in New York is ineffective and lacks independence. It has completely failed to address the continuing corruption scandals in state government. It should be replaced with a new entity that oversees both the executive and legislative branches.

The legislature and the Governor should move immediately to limit the outside income of legislators in the wake of the court’s overturning a Commission imposed ban.

Court Reform

New York State has one of the largest and most complicated trial courts in the country. Many vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens have found the system to be completely unworkable. Some have even forgone legal action because of the onerous burden of having to navigate many different courts for one problem. Victims of domestic abuse, families dealing with separation, individuals with disabilities, and those living in poverty, have all found the system to be too costly and too complicated to have their needs addressed.

The Governor has proposed an amendment to Article VII of the Constitution that would unify New York State’s trial court system. It would consolidate 11 different kinds of trial courts (excluding the Justice Courts)

The League is supportive of this amendment to establish an integrated, statewide court system consisting of a minimum number of trial courts of broad jurisdiction and believes that it will provide the needed agility and flexibility to assure equal access to justice through our court system.

These are the top priorities we are asked to discuss with our local state legislators during the 2020 legislative session.

For information on the complete list of League priorities visit the state league website at:

www.lwvny.org

You will find the Legislative Priorities brochure and the Legislative Packet on the home page.
Thank you to Linda Jenkins, a member of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island of the Newport Area, who recently donated $500.00 to our Education Fund. Linda has an interesting story to tell on why we received this generous gift.

“When I joined the League of Women Voters of the Pasadena California Area LWV in 1975, an older woman, Adele Blauvelt Barnes, chose to mentor me. Her mother had been a leader of the suffrage movement in New York State. Before her death at 101 years in 1995, Adele gave me several items related to her experience working with her mother to see that women would vote. One item was a matted photo of Thomas Edison that he signed to “Mrs. Blauvet, from a believer in women’s suffrage” Adele remembered sitting on Mr. Edison’s lap and watching Teddy Roosevelt speak at rallies when she was a young child.

Adele Picot Wilson Blauvelt (1867-1938) lived in Syracuse NY and was not affiliated with any political party but desired suffrage for women. Her daughter, Adele Barnes, my mentor, along with her sister, father and mother would go to rallies where their mother would stand up on their car and give a speech while the girls passed out sheets of information to the crowd.

It was suggested to me by a League member, that perhaps I should try to sell the signed picture, while we were preparing and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th amendment. I selected an auctioneer and the photo sold on December 15, 2019. I decided to make contributions to the League of Women Voters of the Syracuse Metropolitan Area via their Education Fund; the League of Women Voters Education Fund of Rhode Island and the League of Women Voters of the Pasadena, California Area so all could have additional money to celebrate our 100th birthday.”
## What is the US Census?

On August 2, 1790, the first census of the US population was recorded to be 3,929,214 people. A census has been taken every ten years since then. The goal is to count **every** person **living** in the United States. It is your constitutional right.

## How does the US Gov't use the information?

The data collected by the census is used to determine the number of seats each state has in the US House of Representatives (a process called apportionment) and is also used to distribute billions of federal funds to local communities.

## What programs in a community can receive federal funds?

- Public Schools
- Healthcare (Medicaid, Medicare Part B, State Children’s Health)
- Food Programs
- Roads & Public Transportation
- Affordable Housing

## What is the timeline to do the census?

**Respond to the census info when you receive it.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 12-20</td>
<td>An Official Census Bureau mailing will be sent to homes with information on how to respond to the Census 2020 online, by phone or by mail. Keep this information until you complete the census – there will be a code # so that you don’t need to type in your address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/1 – 7/31</td>
<td>In-person visits to households will be made if no response has been received.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## How will a resident of the US complete the 2020 Census?

There are **3 ways** to complete the 2020 Census:

1. Households may complete the Census form **online**. (Your **local library** is available to help you do this on a safe, secure line.)
2. There will be a designated **telephone** hotline to complete the Census by phone.
3. Some households may receive a paper copy of the Census in the **mail**. (For those who do not have online capability.)

## What specific information is included on the form?

- How many people were living or staying in the “place” on 4/1/2020? (Everyone living there should be counted)
- Is this house, apartment, mobile home owned or rented?
- Telephone # (only to contact you if official census business, is needed.)

For every person living in the household on April 1, 2020:
- Name
- Gender
- Age and Date of Birth
- Relationship to the Head of Household (Person #1)
- Origin or Race

## Are there any quick facts – that a US resident should know?

1. The Census Bureau does **NOT** ask for any social security numbers, credit card information, or political party.
2. There is **NO** question about citizenship.
3. Information collected through the Census Bureau is federally protected and will **NOT** be shared with any form of law enforcement. Your info can only be used to produce statistics.
NYS Presidential Primary
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Every Vote Counts!

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN NEW YORK SINCE 1919

_____ Individual Member $55.00  _____ Household* $80.00  _____ Student** Free

Name ____________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________

City_______________________________ State_________________     Zip___________________

Phone  __________________________________(H)  __________________________________(C)

Email __________________________________________________     Date __________________

To join call us at (315)396-8225, email us at lwvsyr@gmail.com or mail this form to
Syracuse Metro LWV, PO Box 11862, Syracuse NY 13218.

ANNUAL DUES—July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

* Two members in the same household   ** Full time student under 25

Please share this information with others who have expressed interest in our work or who have thought about becoming a member of the League..