ZOOM at NOON
WITH THE LEAGUE

Wednesday, September 16, 2020
12 Noon

Special Guests: Onondaga County Election Commissioners: Dustin Czarny and Michele Sardo.

Join us for a discussion on absentee voting and how the Board of Elections is preparing for the November 3rd General Election. So that we can address everyone’s concerns during our one hour meeting, please send your questions in advance to lwvsyr@gmail.com

We also hope to have brief updates on:
- LWVNYS Healthcare Financing Position Study
- Local Voter Service Activities
- 2020 Census

A reminder with directions on how to join the meeting will be sent out by email closer to the date.

To join by phone call 1 646 558 8656

Until we can resume our in person Wednesday Lunch meetings we will be meeting virtually.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Benedict
Angela DeSantis
Brenda Silverman

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. George Soufleris. George and his wife Rita have been long time members and supporters of the Syracuse League of Women Voters.

OFFICERS

Leadership Team...
Joan Durant
Margrit Diehl
Roberta Millert
Secretary...
Joan Littlehale
Treasurer...
Roberta Millert

DIRECTORS

Education...
Margrit Diehl
Membership ...
Erin Leigh Darnley
Finance/Fundraising
Michele Jones Galvin
Social Media ...
Jessica Bumpus
Publications...
Miranda Askew-Brown
Public Relations...
Nodiesia Hernandez
Voter Service...
Joan Durant
Issues & Advocacy...
Mary Kuhn
Margaret Chase
Diane Dwire
Program...
Carrie Penner
Events Coordinator...
Amanda Slisz

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Budget Director…
Erin Leigh Darnley
Nominating Committee…
Chanel Turnquest
Nodiesia Hernandez
Dorothy Wras Hares
Joan Littlehale
Amanda Slisz

The Onondaga County Board of Elections needs election inspectors for the upcoming November 3rd General Election.

Requirements to Serve as an Election Inspector:

Resident of Onondaga County
17 years of age or older
Available to work on November 3rd from 5am-10pm
Take & pass a 3 hour certification test

These are paid positions:
$190 for an inspector
$235 for a voting specialist*
$25 for taking certification test

Call the Board of Elections for more information at 315-435-3331.

* Requires a second test

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 lwvsvr@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.
November 3, 2020 General Election Information

EARLY VOTING SITES

Camillus Fire Station (Rear Entrance)
5801 Newport Road, Camillus NY 13031

Clay Highway Department
4483 Route 31, Clay, NY 13041

Dewitt Town Hall Court Room
5400 Butternut Drive, East, East Syracuse, NY 13057

LaFayette Fire Station #1 (Rear Entrance)
2444 Route 11 South, LaFayette NY 13084

Armond Magnarelli Community Center at McChesney Park
2300 Grant Boulevard, Syracuse NY 13208

Syracuse Community Connection (SW Community Center)
401-425 South Avenue, Syracuse NY 13204

EARLY VOTING DATES & HOURS

Saturday, October 24 – 10am-3pm
Sunday, October 25 - 10am-3pm
Monday, October 26 - 10am-6pm
Tuesday, October 27- 12pm-8pm
Wednesday, October 28 - 12pm-8pm
Thursday, October 29 - 10am-6pm
Friday, October 30- 10am-6pm
Saturday, October 31- 10am-3pm
Sunday, November 1- 10am-3pm

ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION

October 27- last day to postmark application for an absentee ballot by mail
November 2- last day to apply in person at the BOE for an absentee ballot
November 2- last day to postmark an absentee ballot
November 3- last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to the BOE

Absentee Ballots must be postmarked by November 3rd and received by the Board of Elections by November 10th

Make A Plan for the 2020 Election

1. Vote by absentee ballot. Complete an absentee application and send for the ballot asap.
2. Vote at an early site October 24 – November 1.
3. Vote on Election Day November 3 at your regular polling place.

Visit the portal at www.Ongov.net/election for more information about the voting options. Go to www.vote411.org for information on your personal ballot, candidates and polling places.

The LWV and Onondaga VOTES! continues to work on Syracuse Southside to register voters, Get Out the Vote and this year to complete the 2020 Census. We need your help! Go to signup.com by using this link https://signup.com/go/XZBRRWF to find all the dates, times and locations or email Joan Durant at joandurant69@gmail.com for a list of opportunities.
OFFICES TO BE FILLED—NOVEMBER 3, 2020

PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENT
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – 24th DISTRICT
NYS SENATE – 50th DISTRICT
NYS SENATE – 53rd DISTRICT
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY – 120th DISTRICT
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY – 126th DISTRICT
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY – 127th DISTRICT
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY – 128th DISTRICT
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY – 129th DISTRICT

(2) COUNTY FAMILY COURT JUDGES

(2) CITY COURT JUDGES
CAMILLUS TOWN JUSTICE
CICERO TOWN JUSTICE
POMPEY TOWN JUSTICE
SALINA 4th WARD COUNCILOR (To Fill Vacancy)
SKANEATELES TOWN JUSTICE
SPAFFORD TOWN JUSTICE
TULLY TAX COLLECTOR (To Fill Vacancy)

DELEGATE/ALTERNATE DELGATES TO THE 5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MEMBERS OF COUNTY COMMITTEE (ALL PARTIES)
MALE/ FEMALE MEMBERS OF STATE COMMITTEE (all parties except Republican)

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

October 9, 2020—Last day to register in person at your Board of Elections
October 9, 2020—Last day to postmark registration

CHANGE OF ADDRESS REGISTRATION
Must be postmarked by October 14, 2020

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION
voterlookup.elections.ny.gov
CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

For the past four years we have celebrated two milestones—the right for women to vote and the founding of the League of Women Voters. What would have been a final tribute for the fight for the right to vote and the founding of the League of Women Voters has been derailed due to COVID-19.

However, on August 26th members of the Syracuse Metro League of Women Voters celebrated this historic day virtually by raising a glass of their favorite beverage. We had hoped this would have been an in-person event but it was decided such a gathering was out of the question at this time.

A special invitation went out to our newest members who we have not had the chance to meet. We hope it won’t be much longer before we can meet and greet them in person.

Meanwhile, our fight to “Make Democracy Work” continues.

A Message From SIA Participant Martine Dosa

Martine Dosa is an incoming junior at Nottingham High School and a student member of the League of Women Voters of the Syracuse Metropolitan Area.

We have gone on strike to save the climate and we have marched for Black lives. But, what’s next? The student-led New York City Youth Civics Initiative was founded in partnership with the New York City League of Women Voters after noticing the interest of young people in civic and social action but recognizing, too, that less sustainable action was taken by them the day after the protest. The goal of the NYCYCI is to empower students to be change-makers in their communities, especially by connecting them to advocacy-focused organizations that can offer support and resources.

The NYCYCI is comprised of two networks: The organizational network registers any organizations looking to engage young people by offering opportunities to get involved. This includes internships and fellowships.

The student activist network is then able to find all of these opportunities in one spot so that we, young activists, are able to get involved in our communities as quickly and effectively as possible.

Margrit Diehl, ErinLeigh Darnley, and I are working together to expand these networks to the Central New York community. We are seeking students and other young people hoping to get more involved with civic and social justice, as well as organizations for these students to become involved with. The Syracuse League of Women Voters has long engaged young people with programs such as Students Inside Albany and voter registration activities. This is an excellent addition in a time when my generation must be civically involved and vote!

Learn more about this initiative at https://nycyici.org or email dosamartine@gmail.com.
Healthcare Position Update

In preparation for our upcoming update on Healthcare Financing, below is our present position on Healthcare:

**Support** of measures to assure a basic level of quality physical and mental health care, including regulatory incentives to encourage development of cost-effective alternative methods of delivery; funding for health promotion and disease prevention programs; provisions for effective citizen participation in health policy decisions.

**Support** of measures that enable individuals to assume responsibility for their own health and to participate in decisions, including extraordinary life-extending procedures.

**Support** for uniform eligibility and coverage of basic health care costs through public financing with single payer concept as an acceptable approach to implementing League positions on equitable access and cost containment.

**Support** for the option of medical aid in dying for the terminally ill.

Materials from LWVNYS should soon be available for discussion on updating our position. Stay tuned!

Update on Onondaga County Redistricting

At the September 2, 2020 meeting of the Onondaga County Legislature, legislators along party lines, approved a Redistricting Plan that will follow the 2020 Census.

The vote also confirmed the end of the opportunity for Legislator Chris Ryan’s citizen-led, nonpartisan redistricting commission which would have ended the practice of gerrymandering. Instead, the majority-led Caucus passed a redistricting resolution that left the Charter unchanged, merely adding the words “recommending” and “encouraging” to what amounts to a continued partisan process. While it is true that citizens who would like to participate in this process are encouraged to apply to be part of the reapportionment commission, no more than three will be selected, not randomly, but by elected officials.

The League of Women Voters has long supported a fair and independent redistricting process that takes legislators out of the process of drawing the lines and allows for citizen input and transparency and accountability throughout the map making process.

Needless to say, we are disappointed. We believe in the concept of “one person, one vote” and that voters not legislators need to decide our district lines. Unfortunately, voters will have to wait another ten years for the opportunity to take the process out of the control of political leaders.

Status of the Equal Rights Amendment

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the United States Constitution was first introduced by suffragist Alice Paul in 1923 three years after the ratification of the 19th amendment. While many suffragists left public life, once they gained the vote, Paul believed the true battle for equality had yet to come.

The ERA had been introduced in Congress every year from 1923-1972 when it finally passed as the 27th amendment to the Constitution. The next step was to receive ratification from 38 states. By 1977, 35 states (including New York in 1972) had ratified the proposed amendment.

The amendment went nowhere for years. Then in 2017 Nevada ratified it followed by Illinois in 2018. Finally, in 2020 Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the amendment.

The battle has still not been won. Attempts to do away with the 1982 deadline to pass it remain in limbo with the Democratic held House passing it and the Republican controlled Senate refusing to bring it to the floor.

So here we are, 272 years later when 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments in Seneca Falls NY asserting equality for all women and men.

Joan Johnson
Embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is core to the League’s mission to empower voters and defend democracy. The New York State League task force has been focusing on raising awareness, offering skills to practice, and sharing tools and resources—because we recognize that building individual skills is key to meeting our larger organizational goals, including embodying a more inclusive, welcoming, and diverse organization.

With this in mind, please take a moment to read and digest our DEI Policy as set forth by the League of Women Voters US:

*LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.*

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

There is no one or right way to achieve DEI "success”—rather a series of individual and collective reflections and actions that combine to move the needle that is unique to every organization. DEI programs that proceed without raising individual awareness have limited effectiveness. As we move forward, we will discuss actions we can take to view our local league through a DEI lens. If you are interested in learning more, or participating in this work at a local level, please contact us at *lwvsyr@gmail.com* or 315-396-8225.

Erinleigh Darnley,
LWVSYR DEI Specialist

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**UPDATE—CENSUS 2020**

On August 3, 2020 it was announced that the census collection period would end on September 30, 2020, a month earlier than had been planned for this once in a decade collection of information. At that time it was noted that 4 of 10 households in the US had not yet completed the census information. On Sept. 5, 2020 a federal district court judge placed a temporary restraining order on the shortened timeline until the Court conducts its September 17, 2020 hearing.

As of September 10, 2020 per the US Census Bureau data the Total NY Enumerated (the established number) is 89.6% a rank of 33 of 52 States/Territories. 30 States are at 90.2 to 98.9% The national self-response rate is 65.7%, NY is at 62.3%. This contrasts with data from New York Counts 2020 as of September 11, 2020 the Total NY Enumeration is at 83.0%.

Per the US Census Bureau “Self-Response” data is available about counties and cities. There are 62 counties in NY, those in the LWV - Syracuse Metropolitan area (rank and % response) for each county is as noted: Onondaga (7-69.1%), Madison (18-64.3%), Oneida (22-63.2%), Oswego (26-62.0%), Cayuga (34-59.4%). When the county self-response of 2020 is compared to the 2010 rate - none of the counties have exceeded the 2010 rate - yet. Of the self response rate of 600 cities in NY (rank and %) in this area the highest is Sherrill (8-82.3%) and lowest is Sylvan Beach (582-28.4%). The response % of each county seat is as follows: Oswego 61.4%, Auburn 59.5%, Wampsville 59.9%, Cortland 58.2%, Utica 53.9%, Syracuse 53.1%.

With less than a few weeks to complete the census - please encourage self-reporting. The census can be completed by going to [www.myccensus.gov](http://www.myccensus.gov) or by phone at 1-844-330-2020.

**JUST IN!** A 3 judge panel in the Southern District of NY unanimously ruled that the Presidential Memorandum issued on July 21st was unlawful and enjoined the Commerce Department and the Census Bureau from subtracting undocumented immigrants from the Census count.

*Dorothy Wrase Hares*
LWVSYR Membership/Renewal Application

Name_______________________________________________________________________

Address_____________________________________________________________________

City______________________________ State______________ Zip_____________________

Phone: (H)____________________ (W)____________________ (C)_____________________

E-mail____________________________________________________   Date______________

___ Individual Level….$60

___ Household Level*….$85 Please make check payable to: Syracuse Metro League of Women Voters

___ Student Level **…. Free PO Box 11862

* Two members in the same household Syracuse, NY 13218

** Full time student 16 – 25

___ I would like to support the League with a donation. Information call us at (315) 396-8225 or visit us at www.lwvsyr.org