

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOKHAVEN
SUMMER VOTER
2020

*AUGUST 26 WILL BE THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE PASSING OF THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT
WHICH FINALLY INCLUDED WOMEN AS VOTERS.*



LWV of BROOKHAVEN

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Thank you to the eighteen members who participated in our Annual Meeting by zoom and phone. We elected two new members to our Board of Directors, Carol Gavin and Janet Sklar, whose bios can be found on page 9.. We also agreed to study gerrymandering and support ways to prevent it (it is on the list for concerns of the LWV-US, but exists in many states). We voted to accept the budget and also voted to adopt two changes to our by-laws to legalize our board, general, and annual meetings by virtual means.

Linda Devin-Sheehan reported that she had hoped that Suffolk County and the US Courthouse would naturalize new citizens in drive-by ceremonies as many other counties are doing, but they will not be doing it here. (At our August Board meeting we agreed to contact our New York State Senators to ask them to support drive-by registration for new citizens in Suffolk.)

August 26, 2020, marks the centennial of the certification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It reads: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

In reality, Native Americans did not gain citizenship until 1924. Many states denied them the right to vote until the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which addressed the issue of states that had historically denied the vote to African Americans and required them to get permission before making changes that might be detrimental. Recently the Supreme Court struck down key portions of that law, stating that there was no longer a need for it, and seriously weakening it., allowing voter suppression and gerrymandering to remain as roadblocks to voting, especially for poor and black voters. The League continues its efforts to address laws that curtail voting rights.

Recent television dramas have dramatized the struggle of suffragists to win our vote, most notably The Vote, shown as an American Experience program on the various PBS stations. If you have not seen it Parts One and Two are available, along with many other PBS special programs. Check online to find it. I was surprised as I watched the women organize and fight for their rights. Dressed in long dresses and hats, they battled among themselves over whether to be ladylike (as Carrie Chapman Catt advised) or pugnacious (like Alice Paul) and also about whether they should welcome African American women (and men) to their organization or whether they should exclude them. Many organizations of women of color were organized and active in the struggle for the suffrage, but mostly on their own. The number of women was amazing—parading, picketing, lobbying, and enduring jail sentences—could we do that today, and would we?

The LWV-US National Convention was held this year on June 27 and 28, with informational workshops and caucuses earlier in the week. We are fortunate to have the summary from Stephanie Quarles from the Huntington League on pages 4-5. Her links make it possible to view many of the workshops as well as the actual workings of the convention. The 2020 program is very ambitious, including a plan to end the Electoral College constitutionally.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY (Adopted by the LWV-US)

Diversity includes all of the similarities and differences among people, not limited to: gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, appearance, language, accent, ability status, mental health, education, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, and political perspective or affiliation.

Diversity refers to population groups that have been historically underrepresented in socially, politically, or economically powerful institutions and organizations. These groups include but are not restricted to populations of color, such as African Americans and Blacks, Latinx, Native Americans and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. They may also include lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations, people with disabilities, women, and other groups.

We commit to increase diversity in the recruitment, retention, and retainment at the national, state, and local level, and in the leadership and executive roles.

Equity is an approach based in fairness to ensuring everyone is given equal opportunity; this means that resources may be divided and shared unequally to make sure that each person has a fair chance to succeed. Equity takes into account that people have different access to resources because of systems of oppression and privilege. Equity seeks to balance that disparity.

We commit to prioritizing equity in the work of the LWV staff, board, and members.

An inclusive environment ensures equitable access to resources and opportunities for all. It also enables individuals and groups to feel safe, respected, engaged, motivated, and valued for who they are and for their contributions toward organizational and societal goals.

While an inclusive group is by definition diverse, a diverse group is not always inclusive. Being aware of unconscious or implicit bias can help organizations better address issues of inclusivity.

We commit to making deliberate efforts to ensure LWV is a place where differences are welcomed, different perspectives are respectfully heard, and every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion. We know that by creating a vibrant climate of inclusiveness, we can more effectively leverage our resources to advance our collective capabilities.

We commit to working actively to challenge and respond to bias, harassment, and discrimination.

NEXT MEETING OF THE BOOK GROUP

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1 PM AT BETSY GAIDRY'S (631 846-1778)

We are reading and will discuss *Fascism, A warning*, by Madeleine Albright, written in 2018. A lot of recent, and not so recent history, that is helpful in understanding the present in the US. You are welcome to attend whether you have read the book or not. Please call Betsy if you wish to attend or need directions.

SUMMARY NOTES ON THE LWV US CONVENTION

Written by Stephanie Quarles, LWV of Huntington

I had the privilege of attending the LWVUS National 54th Plenary Convention June 26 and 27 at the 100th anniversary of the league. The convention took place in a Zoom virtual meeting with 1,267 people attending over 50 states, DC and Virgin Islands. It was held from 3 pm to 8 pm both days. Just being able to do this on Zoom was an amazing accomplishment. I found it very well run and effective.

On Thursday evening, LWVUS President Chris Carson delivered welcoming remarks and LWV CEO Virginia Kase moderated a panel of voting rights experts to discuss how we can expand the vote and make our democracy representative of all.

Plenary Convention Highlights

During the plenary sessions, officers and board members were elected, the 2020-2022 Budget was passed, bylaws changes were discussed and passed and the Program was passed with amendments to include 2 concurrences and one priority item, and 3 resolutions were passed. A recap of all of this and the votes taken can be viewed here: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention-daily-briefing>

The many accomplishments of the league were stated, 138,000 letters, 78,000 petitions signed, 232,000 letters, and 129,000 new activists.

Added to the bylaws as a policy was 'LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice'.

The 2020-21 Budget was discussed and passed. The LWV financial health is strong. The PMP was approved at \$32.

LWV CEO Virginia Kase addressed the convention. I found her presentation very inspiring. *'When democracy is attacked, we can't stay neutral. We must stand in our positions and advocate for what is right and just'*.

. The **National Program for 2020-2022** positions, Pros and Cons of 2 concurrences, and a priority item and 3 resolutions were discussed Friday and voted upon Saturday. The following is available on <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention-daily-briefing>

Motion to adopt the abolition of the **electoral college** by Constitutional amendment as a LWVUS action item for the 2020-2022 biennium. PASSED on 681 yay, 458 nay votes, and was added to the program
The League of New Mexico moved for the concurrence on the **Transfer of Federal Public Land** be adopted as submitted. PASSED on 885 yay, 207 nay votes

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin and 23 other state Leagues moved that the **Voter representation/Electoral Systems** concurrence as presented in the Workbook to support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters adopted. PASSED on 1064 yay, 79 nay votes

Motion to **retain all current LWVUS positions** in the areas of representative government, international relations, natural resources, and social policy. PASSED on 1157 yay, 25 nay votes

Motion to adopt the proposed LWVUS program for 2020-2022 as amended: Campaign for **Making Democracy Work®**: ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on Voting Rights, Improving Elections and advocacy for the National Popular Vote Compact, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting and to continue to work on urgent issues: Climate Change, the Equal Rights Amendment, Health Care, Gun Safety, and Immigration and the abolition of the electoral college. The motion PASSED on 1139 yay, 30 nay votes

(continued on page 5)

SUMMARY—LWV US NATIONAL CONVENTION CONTINUED.

Motion reaffirming our commitment to **Immigration reform**, for efficient, expeditious immigrant entry into the United States. The League stands in solidarity with immigrants and our immigrant rights community partners. Congress must take immediate action to pass common sense, fair immigration policies that end the crisis at our borders, end the separation of families, ensure their health and safety, and provide a clear path to citizenship, including DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) young people. The motion PASSED on 1,092 yay, 12 nay votes

We Resolve First, That the League advocates **against systemic racism in the justice system** and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes;

We Resolve Second, That the League **help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident**; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC) deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all". Motion Submitted by Evelyn Maddox on behalf of LWV of Missouri. The motion PASSED on 1094 yay, 32 nay votes.

Motion that that the LWVUS calls for an immediate, wide-scale, mobilization by the United States, to restore, protect and fund an **ecologically sustainable environment and climate**, based on an interrelated approach that is environmentally sound, science based, just and equitable, dedicated to adequately addressing the scale and speed of the global climate change emergency. Motion submitted by America Sherwood on behalf of Araphoe-Douglas County. The motion PASSED on 1,091 yay, 21 nay votes.

AWARDS

LWVNYS won an award in the category of Strengthening Democracy for its work on early voting last fall. This category showcases the work of Leagues that activate their grassroots network to empower voters and advocate change around key issues, such as protecting voting rights or increasing voter registration and turnout.

LWV of the City of New York won an award in the category of storytelling for their Census Language Project, which included five videos in five languages, sharing personal stories about living in the United States.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF LWV-US



I had the honor of kicking off our Convention Thursday evening, moderating a panel of powerhouse voting rights experts – who happen to be all women! board member of LWVUS!), and Alejandra Castillo of YWCA USA.

See page 6 for information about Dr Deborah Turner.

SUMMARY—LWV US NATIONAL CONVENTION CONTINUED.

Deborah Turner, MD, JD, from Iowa was installed as the 20th President of the LWVUS. Dr. Turner introduced herself and laid out her vision for the next biennium: making VOTE411 a household name, advancing our DEI work, and embracing inter-generational conversation. You can read the press release on her election at: <https://bit.ly/31xKoeI>

Dr. Turner joined Des Moines Metropolitan League in 2010 and became president in 2011 when the League was at risk of disbanding. She served in that role until 2015 helping revitalize membership and focus the board leadership. At the same time, she also served on the LWV Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming co-president in 2015. In her dual roles with state and local Leagues, Deborah has provided leadership to strengthen relationships between local leagues and the state Board.

Turner was elected to the League's national board of directors in 2016 where she served on the Finance committee, Governance Committee, and chaired the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. As chair of the DEI Committee, Deborah and her colleagues focused on organizational culture changes to the League's mission work, emphasizing not only racial equity but also intergenerational dynamics, socio-economic differences, gender identity, and interpersonal engagement.

Turner was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2013 and received the Gertrude Rush Award from the National Bar Association in 2015. She was awarded the Louise Noun Visionary Women of the year award from Young Womens Resource Center Des Moines in 2018. Her most treasured award is a certificate from the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Care. She lives in Nebraska and has two grown children – a son and a daughter. WELCOME DR. TURNER.

THE ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING OF OUR BOARD

On August 19, at 10 am by Zoom, our board members will look forward and plan the meetings and programs for the coming year. It is a good time to evaluate what we have done, and suggest new initiatives and speakers. Members are welcome to attend, or may send in or call with suggestions of programs or subjects they would like to see presented.

If you wish to attend, and want to receive a Zoom invitation, please call or email me beforehand. And if there are suggestions you wish to make, or project you would volunteer to help with, please let me know.

THE CENSUS NEEDS OUR HELP

The deadline for responding to the census is September 30, although there are pressures on President Trump to extend it to the end of the 2020. About 65% of Americans have responded so far, but we hope there will be many more. One suggestion is: ask five friends if they have returned or emailed their census response, and ask each of them to ask another five, and so on.

Phone 800-923-8282 or Email my2020census.gov

ISSUE OF POLICE REFORM IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

The subject for this month's TBR column is Governor Cuomo's order that each municipality develop a plan that reinvents and modernizes police strategies and programs in their community. It must be based on community input (from stakeholders from all sectors of the community) and will be coordinated by Commissioner of Police Geraldine Hart and Sheriff Earl Toulon. The Suffolk County League is writing to County Executive Bellone urging him to let the public know more about it. (According to Newsday, Nassau County's Supervisor Curran has already convened a task force.) Our article in Times Beacon Records follows:

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

NYS ORDER FOR "POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE

In 2009, the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD) was investigated by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) after the death of Marcelo Lucero, an Ecuadorian national murdered by teenagers in Patchogue. The SCPD cooperated with the DOJ investigation and signed an agreement that the SCPD would ensure that it would police equitably, respectfully and free of unlawful bias. It agreed to maintain a true Community Oriented Police Enforcement program through the County, and strengthen outreach efforts in the Latino communities.

Suffolk County, following a June 12 statewide Executive Order by Governor Cuomo, must "develop a plan that reinvents and modernizes police strategies and programs in their community based on community input. Each police agency's reform plan must address policies, procedures, practices and deployment, including, but not limited to use of force." Police forces must adopt a plan by April 1, 2021 to be eligible for future state funding, and certify that they have:

- Engaged stakeholders in a public and open process on policing strategies and tools;
- Presented a plan, by chief executive and head of the local police force, to the public for comment;
- After consideration of any comments, presented such plan to the local legislative body (council or legislature as appropriate) which has approved such plan (by either local law or resolution); and

If such local government does not certify the plan, the police force may not be eligible to receive future state funding.

Governor Cuomo said "Our law enforcement officers are essential to ensuring public safety — they literally put themselves in harm's way every day to protect us. This emergency regulation will help rebuild that confidence and restore trust between police and the communities they serve by requiring localities to develop a new plan for policing in the community based on fact-finding and meaningful community input."

In Suffolk, the task force will review police policies for all the county except for the five eastern towns, which provide their own police forces. The review will be conducted by Police Commissioner Geraldine Hart and Sheriff Errol Toulon, and will consist of stakeholders from all sectors of the county, seeking to address any racial bias, use of force, negligence and sensitivity, and about incidents where the police have reacted differently when treating minorities.

Recent review of police conduct show that the police are often tasked to deal with issues of mental health, homelessness and addiction as often as crime prevention or property protection. Many communities have developed programs to respond with mental health workers, either before or with the police. Since 1989, in Eugene Oregon, a mobile crisis intervention team (Cahoots) responds to calls involving people who may be in mental distress. Police back-up is called in only when necessary. Examples of programs are numerous, but each jurisdiction has its own data, issues and challenges.

Open meetings and providing information to the public through the media will be needed to engage community members in the process. It is a chance for the community to get a fuller understanding of how a police and

NYS Order for “Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative” continued from page 7

community relationship based on trust, fairness, accountability and transparency, necessary to reduce any racial disparities in policing, is truly possible. Suffolk County task force’ success will depend on the commitment of

County Executive Bellone to promptly and transparently communicate his support for the task force, and not interfere in the forums while listening to the concerns and passions of stakeholders. Nassau County already has announced the beginning of their process, while all is quiet in Suffolk County.

Engaging representatives of groups with different perspectives and experiences, in a facilitated non-judgmental setting, is a step toward creating a community that treats everyone fairly. Please reach out to our County Executive and your county legislator to support a process that engages participants through the county in a fair and honest evaluation of police practices, and envisions new ways of approaching community safety and social justice.

By Nancy Marr

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE

The South Shore Estuary Reserve office has recently completed a new interactive story on the Office of Planning and Development’s Geographic Information Gateway web site, also known as the “Gateway.” The Gateway features state-of-the-art map viewing and contains cutting-edge interactive stories that highlight case studies and showcase community success stories, while presenting information to the public in a user-friendly and informative format.

Judi Bird is the League representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee of the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council, which meets five times a year and is part of the Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure of New York State. It recently completed its work on their Comprehensive Management Plan. If you would like to know more about their work or membership, contact Judi at birdjc@farmingdale.edu.

RECENT BILLS PASSED BY THE NYS LEGISLATURE—STILL TO BE SIGNED BY GOVERNOR CUOMO

S8280—would approve Automatic Voter Registration (at all state facilities)

S8782 — increase number of early poll sites, starting next year

S8015D —expands the definition of illness for absentee voting

S8783A—gives voters more time to request absentee ballot (used to be no earlier than 30 days before the election)

S83708—allows voters to fix defects on absentee ballots

S8799A—limited fix for postmark issue for absentee ballots

S6302A—requires notice of ensuing election’s date and time to be in bold type (starting next year)

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

CAROL GAVIN

I was born in England and earned a B.S. Degree in Economics from the University of London. I married a US service man in 1976 and moved to South Florida. After the birth of my daughter in 1978, I moved to Washington, DC, where I lived and worked until 2008. During that time I was employed by several food and drug related NGOs, including 11 years as the Vice President of Operations at the Food and Drug Law Institute. As a result I acquired experience in organizational governance, board and committee administration, financial planning and human resources. In 2008 I spent a year in France and from 2009 to 2011 returned to the UK where I served as a part time Magistrate and Justice of the Peace. In 2012 I joined my daughter, her husband, and my new granddaughter in Port Jefferson, New York. I worked as a part time human resource consultant for 7 years for a manufacturing company in Hauppauge, retiring in 2019. I also serve as a Suffolk County Election Inspector. I enjoy studying French with my friends at Stony Brook University OLLI, walking, gardening and being a Grandma.

JANET SKLAR

B.A. Brooklyn College, Food and Nutrition, M.A. Adelphi, School and Community Health, NYS Teaching License K-12, Certified Dietician Nutritionist

SNA (School Nutrition Assn) School Nutrition Specialist, NYSNA Farm to School Board Associate

Winner of partnership awards 2005, 2006, 2011 in School Nutrition

President of NY School Nutrition Assn 2006-2008

Eastern Suffolk BOCES Shared Services , Food Service Director 2000-2014

Bay Shore Wellness Alliance member

Suffolk County Food Policy Council School Nutrition and Education Chair

Member of Suffolk County CC and Stony Brook Dietetic Intern Advisory Boards

ELISE NICOLS-POWELL

I grew up in New Rochelle, NY, attended Boston University, received a Master's Degree at the College of New Rochelle, and taught all the K-6 elementary grades from 1962 until 1997 when I retired. During those years and since retirement, I have remained active in various community organizations such as NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Tri-County Black Counselors, the National Urban League, National Association of Black Educators, The Links. Inc, and have recently revived my interest in speaking French and took a course at OLLI

Currently the protection and support of voting rights is imperative in maintaining our democratic form of government. Too many have a random, nonchalant attitude about voting that results in a dangerous advantage for those whose interests are in blocking full participation. For those who are eligible, voting should be easier, not harder. Otherwise, we will be subject to the rule of only those who actually participate. Everyone must be included.

(Elise was elected by the Board of Directors at the meeting on August 3.)

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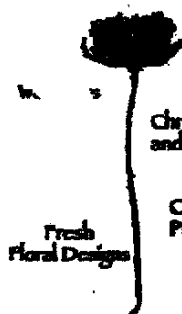
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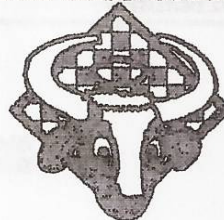
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AUGUST

WEDNESDAY, AUG 19, 10 AM

The Board will hold its annual planning meeting by Zoom. All League members are welcome to attend, or suggest topics or programs they would like to see on our agenda. Send email to enpymarr@optonline.net to register for Zoom or make suggestions, or call or contact one of the board members listed on page 2.

SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY, SEPT 17, 1 PM

Book Group meeting, at Betsy Gaidry's. All welcome.