

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOKHAVEN
VOTER

NOVEMBER 2019

THE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP
AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT
SPEAKER: NYS ASSEMBLYMAN STEVEN
ENGLEBRIGHT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2 PM

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PRESIDENT’S PAGE—

On Monday, November 18, New York State Assemblyman Steve Englebright will talk to us about the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, a historic climate law that puts New York on a path to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions. The culmination of more than three years of effort, the CLCPA establishes economy-wide and electric sector targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and scaling up clean energy that will transform and strengthen New York’s economy. Moreover, the Act includes several environmental justice components, including a requirement to direct at least 35-40% of the program’s benefits to historically disadvantaged communities. .

To achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions, the law creates a Climate Action Council, which over the next two years will develop and propose strategies for attaining deep decarbonization across the economy, updating those plans every five years thereafter. The CLCPA establishes a nation-leading framework that builds on the successful efforts by Governor Cuomo to accelerate the development of clean energy. By enshrining into law clear, concrete targets for developing wind, solar, energy efficiency, and energy storage technologies, the law provides a clear timeline for the rapid deployment of clean energy, in the process unlocking the next wave of investment in New York’s clean energy industries. (Summary from *Primer* by



NRDC)

TRIP TO WERTHEIM NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

On October 21, League members (and two guests) had the pleasure of visiting and learning about the wildlife refuge in Shirley, one of seven in the county that were established by the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The goal stated recently by its planning commission is:

“the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex will preserve, manage, and restore some of the last significant natural areas for wildlife on Long Island, New York. The Complex will comprise varied and important wildlife habitat, ranging from coastal systems to native grasslands to mature forests. These habitats, present in nine distinct units, will support threatened and endangered species in addition to hundreds of species of migratory birds and other wildlife within the Atlantic Flyway. Located adjacent to the nation’s major media center, the Complex is an ideal setting to increase public awareness, understanding, and support of the National Wildlife Refuge System. We recognize that success is dependent on the Complex becoming an integral part of the community.”

“Located adjacent to the nation’s major media center, the Complex is an ideal setting to increase public awareness, understanding, and support of the National Wildlife Refuge System. We recognize that success is dependent on the Complex becoming an integral part of the community. We will work together with partners and local communities to protect refuge lands and wildlife from increasing pressures and threats. We will provide compatible priority wildlife-dependent recreational and educational opportunities.”

During our visit we walked along a short path to the Carmans River, which bisects the property. It is just one of the trails open to the public. The Refuge sponsors many educational and recreational events for children and adults at its visitor’s center.

NEXT BOOK GROUP MEETING—NOVEMBER 14, 1 pm

BOOK: *THE EVICTED*, BY MATTHEW DESMOND

The story of eight families caught up in the search for stable housing in a housing market that has been dominated by exploitation, greed, and shortage. The author reminds us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible. Call Betsy Gaidry, (631) 846-1778 for directions.

FROM COMMON CAUSE

According to early estimates, 256,000+ people took advantage of early voting statewide, and the wait times at the polls were minimal or non-existent. Overall, New Yorkers were able to cast their ballots with minimal setbacks with the Board of Elections addressing all concerns promptly. Big shout out to our partners and activists in Erie County, which had the highest percentage of early voters statewide!

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY - A HUGE SUCCESS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2, 2019 — This year's National Voter Registration Day (September 24) shattered records with **an estimated 400,000 citizens registering for the first time or updating their voter registration.** This unprecedented number is more than THREE TIMES the previous record set for an "off-year" focused primarily on local elections, and far outpaced expectations. Last week, 4,083 community partners – including nonprofits, libraries, colleges, local election offices, veteran groups, and more – joined with nationally-recognized partners such as Snap!, Facebook, Viacom, NALEO Educational Fund, United Way, EveryLibrary, League of Women Voters, and many more for a single day of coordinated, nonpartisan civic action promoting voter registration online and at in-person, community-based events across the nation.

At the Congressional level, Republican Senator Roy Blunt and Democratic Senator Amy Klobuchar joined forces to pass a bipartisan Senate resolution recognizing the holiday and its importance.

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 19, 2019 100th Anniversary of LWNYS

February 4, 2020 100th Anniversary of LWWUS

August 26, 2020 100th Anniversary of official certification of ratification of the 19th Amendment granting suffrage to women nationwide

A version of the following article appeared in print on Nov. 1, 1987, in the *New York Times*:

WHEN Westchester women go to the polls Tuesday, they are unlikely to cause the stir they created 70 years ago in the election of Nov. 6, 1917.

"Thousands of registration fliers and copies of 'What Every Woman Needs to Know About Voting' were sent out," one post-election report of that year observed. "On Election Day, the day of days, it seemed that every woman not suffering from Spanish influenza voted."

Every town in Westchester passed the bill giving women the right to vote in state elections, and the measure was approved throughout the state.

The achievement of state voting rights for women in 1917 came three years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution giving women the vote in national elections. The 1917 result followed 50 years of marching, fund-raising and rallies. That triumph was achieved despite the fears of antisuffragists that when a woman received the right to vote, "political gossip would cause her to neglect the home, forget to mend our clothes and burn the biscuits."

(

(continued on page 5)

Nowhere was the effort to gain the right to the state vote more intense than in Westchester, where women's organizing efforts spread from New Rochelle (home of Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the Woman's Suffrage Party, which became known as the New York State League of Women Voters) to Beechwood (the Scarborough home of Narcissa Cox Vanderlip and her husband, Franklin, president of the Manhattan-based National City Bank). Mrs. Vanderlip later became the first president of the New York State League of Women Voters.

The movement in the state picked up momentum in earnest, and two years later Westchester suffragettes spotted an unusual opportunity. Under the direction of Mrs. Vanderlip, they agreed to assemble volunteers to take the World War I "military census" of able-bodied men in the county, a process involving surveying 320,000 residents and saving thousands of dollars. As *The New York Sun* declared approvingly in its April 29, 1917, issue, "One of the common reproaches against suffragettes is that they are not interested in anything but getting the vote. The Woman's Suffrage Party is disproving the accusation."

In an interview with the *Sun*, Mrs. Vanderlip demonstrated that she had weighed the costs carefully against the benefits of the effort. "War today is not the business of a group of fighting men but the affair of a whole people," Mrs. Vanderlip said. "It has revolutionized the curiously antiquated arguments about women's suffrage." Although she also said the census effort would be concluded "without any thought of propaganda," she added: "I can't help feeling that in the end this work and all the work which women may be called on to do in the national crisis will unavoidably influence public opinion."

Following the state success, Mrs. Catt organized the New York State League of Women Voters, a move that prompted her to say: "What are we going to do? We know nothing about politics. We've got the vote. Now we must learn to use it." When presiding over league meetings these days, Marion F. Finek, a Chappaqua resident and current president of the State League of Women Voters, uses Mrs. Catt's gavel, originally a gift to the suffragette from a fellow sympathizer, Susan B. Anthony.

There are still too few women running for state and national office, Mrs. Finek said, in part because of the "difficulties in doing it all well—it is hard to be responsible for a family, work, and commute to Albany or Washington."

But league membership is now stabilizing, after a recent decline primarily caused by the growing number of women who work and so lack time to participate. Rita Malmud, president of the league in the county, said Westchester membership was holding at 2,658. "We saw what was happening," Miss Malmud said, "and we're not dummies." The league decided to accept men as members.

The State League of Women Voters is now open to male members, and the latter constitute about 10 percent of the county group. "We used to be very discriminatory toward men," Miss Malmud said, laughing. "We decided discrimination is not a proper league attitude."

(This article was listed on the NYSLWV website with many other useful resources.)

NEW YORK CITY ADOPTS RANK CHOICE VOTING

Instead of selecting just one candidate, voters will get to rank their top five choices in order of preference. If no candidate wins a majority, then the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes will be eliminated from the running, and all their voters' second choices will get those tallies. That process will repeat, until one candidate has a majority.

For voters, this is pretty straightforward — just make sure you put in enough thought to know who your second, third, fourth and fifth choices would be. For candidates, this is a big change, because there's now an incentive to be someone's second choice. So instead of seeing candidates pitch themselves to a specific base of voters at the risk of alienating others, expect less divisive campaigning and broader outreach.

"We've really got to put the burden on the candidates to get out beyond their core base group and get to know what the issues are in the broader constituency," said Kathy Wylde, president of the Partnership for New York City and a ranked-choice voting supporter.

Ranked-choice voting is already in use in 20 cities around the country. Maine uses it statewide, including in federal elections. And Alaska, Hawaii, Kansas, and Wyoming will use it for the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries. (thanks to Rita Edwards for the information)

VOTE 411.ORG

Did you check out our voter guide, VOTE411.ORG before you voted? This, our second effort to provide it for voters, was more successful than the first one, two years ago. We had more help from other League members, at the state level and at other leagues, so we could get the answers to the many many questions we had about putting it into operation. Its success depends on getting responses from candidates about their bios and to questions we posed. Last time, very few candidates responded. This year, out of 47 candidates on our list, 24 responded with information about their background, answers to our questions, and even pictures of themselves. We look forward to its usefulness in the 2020 election. (Last year to make it easier for League members, staff at NYS LWV composed the answers from information they gathered about the candidates, instead of relying on answers from the candidates themselves. Because there were some protests, we saw how important it is to print only the candidates' own answers.) Linda Devin-Sheehan and Peggy Olness mastered the effort, with help from Jean Baker, and Nancy Marr.

In December we will have two meetings (choose between morning or evening) to review some of the LWV-US positions through the years. (See page 8 for locations.)

The LWVNYS Education Foundation invites you to attend

BRIEFING AT THE UNITED NATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Panel of UN Experts will discuss the topic and what you as individuals can do to help

Wednesday, December 4

1:30—4:00 pm

At the United Nations Headquarters in New York City—First Avenue and 48th Street

Attendees may also tour the UN and have lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room

(must arrive by 9:00 am for tours)

Please complete the registration information below by November 15, 2019 and send to LWVNYS 62 Grand St, Albany, NY 12207 or call (518) 465-4162 for more information or to register by phone.

Fax-518-465-0812 (credit card registrations only) or email: Linda@lwvny.org

Space is limited so reserve your spot early! (There is a \$25 administrative fee for any cancellations.)

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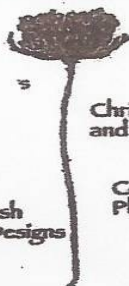
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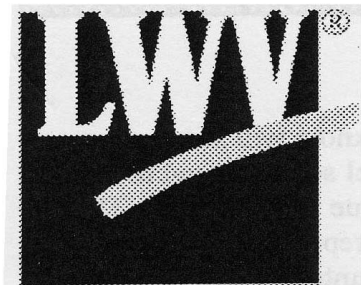


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NOVEMBER

MON NOV 4 LWVB Board Meeting, 10 am, at Linda Devin-Sheehan's
 TUES NOV 5 ELECTION DAY
 MON NOV 18 **NYS CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT,
 NYS ASSEMBLYMAN ENGELBRIGHT, COMSEWOGUE LIBRARY, 2 PM**
 WED NOV 20 **SC-LWV LUNCHEON—GENERATION CITIZEN, Cooperage Inn, 12-3**
 (to reserve a place email glorianberk@aol.com)

DECEMBER

MON DEC 2 LWVB Board Meeting, 10 am, at Nancy Marr's
 MON DEC 2 Review of positions of LWV-US, 7 pm, at Nancy Marr's
 SAT DEC 7 Review of positions of LWV-US, 10 am, at Linda Devin-Sheehan's