



# League of Women Voters of NYS **STATE VOTER**

July 2014



## From the President

This month the state League moved its focus from the legislative issues to the fall election season. Please note that election information, voter registration forms, election deadlines, etc, can all be found on the homepage of the state [website](#).

This is the time of year when our local Leagues are busy with voter registration drives, organizing candidate forums and working on Vote 411. The electronic voter guide, Vote 411, is essential to the future of the League. Only by providing the candidate information in an electronic format can the League maintain its role as the nonpartisan source of candidate information in New York State. The paper copies of the guide are important for distribution at libraries, farmers' markets, etc, but the electronic format is being sought by candidates and the public at a quickly increasing rate. I encourage you all to talk with your local League to see how you can help - with voter registration drives or with Vote 411. There are many tasks in Vote 411 that do not involve technology so anyone can help.

There will be three proposals on the ballot in November, all of which will be explained in the Voter Guide Part II. The first proposal would authorize \$2 billion in state bonds to fund technology upgrades in the public schools. The second proposal would allow for electronic versions of bills rather than requiring paper copies in the legislature.

Finally, the third ballot proposal would approve a constitutional amendment concerning the redistricting process. The state League is fully committed to encouraging the public to support this amendment proposal. We will be sharing materials, including a powerpoint presentation and palm cards, with all local Leagues. We ask each local League to organize a community forum on the issue and present the powerpoint. More information will be coming.

The New York Times published an editorial last week criticizing the proposed amendment on redistricting (click [here](#)). I submitted a Letter to the Editor responding to this editorial. Click [here](#) to see that Letter.

Please help your local League increase voter participation and educate the voters. This is one of the League's primary missions and we all must help to ensure an educated electorate.

Sally Robinson, President  
League of Women Voters of NYS  
[robintwins@gmail.com](mailto:robintwins@gmail.com)  
Facebook: League of Women Voters of NYS  
Twitter: @LWVNYS

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## Your Legacy with the League

### Create a Lasting Legacy for the League

The League has been around for almost 100 years, in part because of the vitality of our members and mission, and also because members who have gone before have remembered the League in their wills. Bequests are the most popular way donors make deferred gifts. By making a bequest to the League, you can maintain control of your assets during your lifetime and still support the League for the next generation of members. You can make a bequest that is a percentage of your estate or stipulate a specific dollar amount. To find out more about naming the League in your will, contact Kate Jankowski, Communications and Development Coordinator, at (518) 465-4162 or via e-mail at [kate@lwvny.org](mailto:kate@lwvny.org).

## SAVE THE DATE: League Day at the United Nations, November 13



The state League will be hosting its annual **League Day at the United Nations on Thursday, November 13**. Mark your calendar now so you can join us for a tour, lunch at the UN and an informative briefing on the global crisis caused by insufficient water supply to satisfy basic human needs and the growing demands on the world's water resources to meet human, commercial and agricultural needs.

## VOTE 411

Marianna Stout, [marianna.stout@att.net](mailto:marianna.stout@att.net)



Vote 411 is the electronic voter guide for the public. Links to the website will be posted on the state website and should be posted on each local League website, too. The information on the candidates and the ballot proposals provided in Vote 411 is similar to the old paper Voter Guides - and many local Leagues print out the Vote 411 information to create a paper version of the Guide. But, candidates and the public are looking to the internet for trusted election information.

Voter education is one of the primary missions of the League. Being the source of nonpartisan candidate and election information is what the public seeks from the League. The League needs to keep this activity strong. Encouraging candidates to submit their information (biographical info, responses to League questions, etc) is often the hardest task of the Vote 411 process and without the candidate information, Vote 411 is not valuable. We need your help. Contact your local League and offer to follow up with candidates to get them to participate - they will listen most to constituents.

Also, if the public doesn't know about Vote 411, then all the time and effort to create the website is wasted. Help your local League publicize Vote 411. Contact your local League and offer to distribute flyers to libraries and elsewhere to encourage people to visit the website. Get creative in thinking of ways to advertise Vote 411 (farmers' markets, parades, etc).

Help the League ensure an educated electorate. And, thanks for your hard work.

## LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS



**Elisabeth Radow** was honored for her four years as president of the **LWV of Larchmont-Mamaroneck**. Westchester County Legislator Catherine Parker presented Ms. Radow with a proclamation, and the LWV-LM board announced that a cherry tree will be planted in the Town of Mamaroneck in her honor.

**The LWV of Broome and Tioga Counties** established the Fran Garside Environmental Award in honor of Fran Garside, a long-time League member and true environmentalist. The League has given the award to a full-time student enrolled in environmental studies or with a commitment to the environment since 2000. The student receives an award of \$500, which is sent to the student's account at the college bookstore to help defray college costs. The 2014 recipient is Concetta Schirra. Concetta is pursuing a course of study to become a physical therapist assistant. She is also employed part time as the Environmental Education Coordinator at the Salt Springs State Park in Montrose, PA.

**The LWV of Buffalo/Niagara** had a letter to the editor about public access to the waterfronts appear in the Buffalo News this month. For the full letter, visit their website: <http://www.lwvbn.org/>.

**LWV of Bedford/Lewisboro/No. Salem** has received \$2,000 in pledges from local banks and businesses to help print the Candidate Voter Guides this fall. Great way to fund League expenses.

**In July, the LWV of Somers hosted a presentation by** Laura Liebman, J.D., the Director of Development at the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI), will discuss the impact of mass incarceration and BPI's mission. Started by a Bard College student in 1999, BPI has created opportunities for outstanding achievement in higher education within prisons across New York State and now throughout the country. By marshaling strong academic resources, cultivating high aspirations and building rigorous liberal arts and skill-based programs, BPI helps break the cycle of recidivism and transforms the outcomes of the criminal justice system.

Downpours could not dampen the spirits of members from the **League of Women Voters of the Hamptons** during their tour of Sag Harbor.



The League also recently held a meeting at Stony Brook's Southampton School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS). Facility Director Christopher Paparo lead a tour and talked about programs offered.

**The LWV of Broome and Tioga Counties is planning a Women's History Tour on October 4, 2014. The trip includes a** day-long tour through historic sites in Central New York integral to the women's suffrage movement, lunch at the historic Springside Inn (c. 1851) on Lake Owasco, and then on to Seneca Falls and the Women's History Museum.

The **LWV of Chautauqua County** will have a booth at the Fredonia Farm Festival in August and they are planning an education session on the Importance of Mid-Term Elections and Redistricting for September 10.

On Saturday, August 2, the **LWV of Westchester** is holding a workshop on Membership & Leadership Development for every ILO and local LWV board member. The program will be presented by Carol Reimers, one of the developers of the LWVUS Membership & Leadership Development program, and Dare Thompson and Lisa Scott of the State LWV.



Sara and Karl Wokan, Co-Presidents of the **LWV of Broome-Tioga Counties** were profiled in the local paper; see full article [here](#). Nice job, Sara and Karl!

The **LWV of Nassau County** (Nassau County ILO) held a July meeting about the state constitutional amendment on redistricting that will be on the November ballot that League is supporting. All League members were invited. Sally Robinson, LWNYS President, was the guest speaker.

In its work on the LWVUS grant to increase student voter registrations, the **Nassau County ILO** coordinated 27 volunteers from four of Nassau's local Leagues and registered 930 students. Great job by all of the Nassau County local Leagues!

**National Voter Registration Day** is September 23, 2014. The **LWV of New York City** is already preparing for their activities. Many other local Leagues are also hosting events and registration drives on this day.

Congratulations to former LWVNYS President Marcia Merrins (**LWV of Chautauqua**) who was recently honored by the Girls Scouts of Western New York as one of the 2014 Women of Distinction. This event celebrates outstanding Western New York women who embody the Girl Scout values of courage, confidence, and character in their professional and civic lives and therefore, are role models for today's girls.



NYC Mayor de Blasio issued a proclamation celebrating the **League of NYC's** 95th anniversary and commending the League for its "unwavering commitment to building a stronger and brighter future, one voter at a time."

The **LWV of the Rochester Metro Area** is urging members to attend an event about human trafficking at the end of July. The Breaking the Links event will be held on July 29 when modern-day abolitionist Matt Friedman and his two teenage sons bring their anti-human trafficking message to Rochester. During a recent voter registration drive, LWV-RMA Co-President Mary Hussong-Kallen, VP Sheila Abeling, U.S. President Lincoln, and LWV-RMA VP Katherine Smith posed after Mr. Lincoln filled out a postcard in support of the WEA - he was already registered to vote.



On August 16<sup>th</sup>, the **LWV of the Utica/Rome Metro Area** is planning a bus trip to Seneca Falls. Stops include: The Women's Rights National Historical Park, The Women's Hall Of Fame, and a Winery in Seneca Falls.

League of Women Voters of New York State  
62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207  
Tel: 518-465-4162; FAX: 518-465-0812  
Website: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)  
Email: [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org)  
Facebook: League of Women Voters of NYS  
Twitter: @LWVNYS