

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NEW YORK STATE

COUNCIL KIT
April 2014



62 Grand Street/Albany, NY 12207
Phone: 518-465-4162 / Fax: 518-465-0812
E-mail: lwny@lwny.org
Web Site: www.lwny.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE
THIRTY-NINTH BIENNIAL COUNCIL
MAY 2014

LOCAL LEAGUE ACTION

Welcome to Council.....	3
LWVNYS 2014-2015 Budget	
Budget Committee Memo.....	4
Proposed Budget.....	5
Description of Budget Categories, 2014-2015.....	8
League Acceptance of Budget Form	12
Direction to the Board Form.....	13

REPORTS

President.....	14
Issues and Advocacy.....	14
Grassroots Director.....	17
Membership	18
Vote 411 Director.....	21
Voter Service.....	22
Youth Programs.....	23

WELCOME TO COUNCIL

Dear League Leaders:

I am happy to enclose our 2014 Council Report.

As has been done for a number of years, this year's Council will be conducted by mail. The president of each Local League, ILO, and MAL Unit, or her/his alternate, shall be a delegate to Council. As provided in Article IX, Section 2 of the LWVNY bylaws, each delegate is entitled to two votes.

The Council Kit asks delegates to take action on the following items:

1. **Proposed Budget for 2014 – 2015.** Each delegate must complete the LEAGUE ACCEPTANCE OF BUDGET Form in the Council Kit and return it electronically or by mail to the League office no later than June 20, 2014;
2. **Directions to the Board.** We ask each delegate wishing to submit one or more directions to the board of the LWVNYS to complete the DIRECTION TO THE BOARD Form in the Council Kit and return it electronically or by mail to the League office no later than June 20, 2014;

We urge all delegates to **return the above forms to the League office not later than June 20, 2014 to ensure that we meet the Council quorum requirements** of participation by at least half of the local Leagues.

Thank you for participating in Council 2014. We hope that you enjoy reading the reports from our State Board members on the activities of the League during this past year. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at robintwins@gmail.com or the state office at 518-465-4162.

Thank you also for all the hard work you do all year to keep your Leagues strong!

Sally Robinson
LWVNYS President

TO: Members of The League of Women Voters of New York State
FROM: The Budget Committee:
Toni Coffee, Chair, LWV of the City of NY
Sharon Lindsay, LWV of Westchester (ILO)
Maggie Moehringer, LWV of Albany
Carol Mellor, LWVNYS Board (LWV of the Hamptons)
Judy Middelkoop, LWVNYS Treasurer (LWV of Schenectady)
Laura Ladd Bierman, LWVNYS Executive Director, ex officio
Sally Robinson, LWVNYS President, ex officio

The Budget Committee is proposing a budget totaling \$272,101 for the fiscal year 2014-2015 for the League of Women Voters of New York State and it will *not* include any PMP (per member payment) increase. The committee worked to produce a budget that would be as realistic as possible.

On the revenue side, the PMP reflects the State League's actual membership as of February 1, 2014, which is used to determine PMP for the 2014-2015 fiscal year; total membership continues to decline so the PMP revenue is also decreased from last year. Revenue for the League continues to rely heavily on PMP payments, as well as the State Convention (to be held in June 2015 in Albany), election night reporting, and donations from both the annual February direct mail appeal and the Action Fund mailing in June. Reimbursements from the League's Education Foundation for educational and administrative expenses of the League are a large portion of income for the League. Finally, the League has been successful in obtaining in-kind donations of printing for some of its publications.

The 2014-2015 budget reflects the staff positions that were added during 2013-14: fulltime Director of Program and Policy and part time Communication and Development Coordinator; the total salary in the 2014-2015 budget is therefore only slightly higher than the 2013-2014 budget. The budget does include a potential three percent increase in salaries for the staff; personnel costs total \$ 187,150.29, the largest portion of the expense budget. No new programs or activities are included in the budget; it is expected that new programs will only be undertaken if new sources of funding are determined.

The budget committee noted that the State League's fiscal health continues to rely on significant fundraising and the willingness of local Leagues and League members to continue to make contributions. Significant increases in donations have been realized during this past year with the increased emphasis on fundraising; donations are budgeted high as we remain optimistic about this coming fiscal year.

LWVNYS Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

		Budget 2013-02014	Actuals July 1, 2013 - April 30, 2014	Proposed Budget 2014-15
Income				
4000 · Member Support				
	4000-1 · PMP Income	52,075.00	48,339.50	51,475.50
	4002-1 · Member Support-MAL	4,425.00	1,523.10	2,815.00
	4010-1 · Spec Gifts From Local Leagues	200.00	508.80	200.00
	4016-1 Board Contributions			
	4018-1 · Member Contributions	3,000.00	3,819.72	5,000.00
	4025-1 Community/Corpo Donations			
	4026 · In Kind Donations	6,000.00	5,880.00	6,000.00
	4150 · Direct Mail Income			
	4151-1 · Direct Mail- Feb mailing	16,000.00	13,616.00	15,000.00
	4154-1 · D/M- Action Fund-June mailing	6,000.00	6,185.00	6,000.00
	Total 4150 · Direct Mail Income	22,000.00	19,801.00	21,000.00
	Total 4000 · Member Support	87,700.00	79,872.12	86,490.50
4110 · Development				
	4111 · Election Night Reporting	5,000.00	4,500.00	8,000.00
	Total 4110 · Development	5,000.00	4,500.00	8,000.00
4120 · Projects/Programs				
	4123 · Voter Services	850.00	5,078.92	5,000.00
	4125 · Program Reimbursement	128,000.00	49,371.80	59,686.70
	4126 · EF Admin. Reimbursement	0.00	54,767.22	79,424.00
	Total 4120 · Projects/Programs	128,850.00	109,217.94	144,110.70
4300 State Meetings				
	4300-1 State Convention Income			25,000.00
	4310 Lobby Day		590.00	500.00
	4320 Regional Training Sessions		1,320.00	2,000.00
	Total 4300 State Meetings		1,910.00	27,500.00
	4400 · Publication Sales Income	1,500.00	960.75	2,800.00
	4500 · Product Sales	2,500.00	1,017.28	3,000.00
	4600 Other Income		0.00	
	4691-1 Speaker Fees			200.00
Total Income		225,550.00	197,478.09	272,101.20

COUNCIL KIT

May, 2014

	5240-6 · Printing	0.00	6,917.87	1,000.00
	Total 5240 · Supplies	8,000.00	10,463.21	4,100.00
	5250 · Postage			
	5250-1 · General	3,500.00	3,412.50	4,000.00
	Total 5250 · Postage	3,500.00	3,412.50	4,000.00
	5261 · Telephone			
	5261-1 · General	3,000.00	1,810.21	3,000.00
	5294-2 · Internet	660.00	764.90	915.00
	Total 5261 · Telephone	3,660.00	2,575.11	3,915.00
	5265 · Travel	350.00	937.92	250.00
	5266 · Facilities/Lodging/Meals	1,750.00	9,680.82	8,250.00
	5269 · Dues, Fee & Subscriptions	310.00	727.50	310.00
	5270 · Insurance			
	5270-1 · Worker's Compensation	590.00	482.67	600.00
	5271-1 · Directors & Officers	213.00	-17.69	213.00
	5282-1 · General Liability Insurance	690.00	-73.12	1,500.00
	Total 5270 · Insurance	1,493.00	391.86	2,313.00
	5281-1 · Building Maintenance	0.00	33.37	0.00
	5296-1 · Checking Account	0.00	23.00	0.00
	5296-6 · Credit Card Expenses	300.00	202.30	300.00
	5298-1 · Master Card/ VISA/PayPal	150.00	125.20	200.00
	5299-1 Interest Expense		47.66	
	Total 5200-2 · Administrative Expenses	34,443.00	44,592.04	40,613.00
	5200 · Payroll Related Expenses			
	5200-1 · Salaries- General Admin.	155,218.40	121,450.68	161,148.65
	5202-1 · Employee Benefits			
	5209-1 · Employee Pension Expense	1,190.26	1,647.22	3,222.97
	5210-1 FICA Exp			
	5211-1 Medicare Exp			
	5215-1 · Disability Insurance	0.00	-3.69	
	5217-1 Federal Unemployment			
	5218-1 NYS Unemployment		184.58	
	5202-1 · Employee Benefits - Other	15,521.84	11,294.32	16,114.87

	Total 5202-1 · Employee Benefits	16,712.10	13,122.43	19,337.84
	5216-1 · Health Insurance	5,460.00	4,095.00	5,460.00
	5200 · Payroll Related Expenses - Other	1,281.60	989.57	1,203.80
	Total 5200 · Payroll Related Expenses	178,672.10	139,657.68	187,150.29
	5280-1 · Rent Expense	0.00	5,000.00	6,000.00
	5300 · Meetings			
	5301-1 State Convention			20,000.00
	5302-1 · National Convention	4,000.00	1,377.92	409.91
	Total 5300 · Meetings	4,000.00	1,377.92	20,409.91
	5400 Publications Exp			1,300.00
	5500 · Products Expense	2,000.00	1,625.31	500.00
	66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	53.10	
	Total Expense	225,388.60	200,633.42	272,101.20
	Net Income	161.40	-3,155.33	0.00

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE
DESCRIPTION OF BUDGET CATEGORIES, 2014-2015

INCOME

MEMBER SUPPORT

- 4000-1 Per Member Payments from local Leagues, based upon reported membership on January 31st of previous year
- 4002-1 Membership dues from NYS Members-at-Large, including members of MAL units
- 4010-1 Special gifts from local Leagues often in memory or honor of League members
- 4016-1 Gifts from Board members
- 4018-1 Member Contributions – unsolicited contributions
- 4025-1 Community/Corporate Donations – general donations from community or corporate foundations
- 4026 In-Kind Donations – Services provided to LWVNYS at no cost, eg, printing by CSEA or NYS Bar Association (expenses of same amount are included in appropriate expense account)
- 4151-1 Direct mail appeal, mailed in February (LWV members only)
- 4154-1 Action Fund letter sent in Spring, asking for funds to support advocacy efforts

DEVELOPMENT

4111 Election Night Reporting -Payment for local League participation with election night reporting for AP; funds are received and a portion passed on to local Leagues for their participation (2/3 to local Leagues; 1/3 to LWVNYS)

PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

4123 Voter Services –Voter Guide and other Voter Services sales to local Leagues

4125 Program Reimbursement from Ed. Foundation – reimbursement for expenses incurred by LWV for educational programs, including personnel, copying, phone, postage, etc.

4126 EF Administrative Reimbursement – Reimbursement for expenses related to administration of the Education Foundation, such as development and fundraising activities and building issues.

STATE MEETINGS

4300-1 Income from LWVNYS Convention.

4310 Income from Lobby Day registrations

4320 Income from Regional Training Workshops registrations

PUBLICATIONS/PRODUCTS

4400 Publication Sales – income from sales of publications, eg, Welcome to the LWV, Citizen Lobbyist, Voter.

4500 Product Sales – income from sales of t-shirts, mugs, pins, etc.

OTHER INCOME

4691-1 Speaker fees are generated by state board member or off board specialist appearances

EXPENSES

GENERAL EXPENSE

5000-1 PMP National – PMP paid to LWVUS for MAL members (and MAL Unit members)

5020-1 State support for MAL Units (\$200 for 1st year and 2nd year, if requested).

PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

5174-1 Voter Services – Expenses for creation, printing and postage of Voter Guides (printing was included in Printing Account instead this year)

ADVOCACY

5131 Salsa – License fees for maintaining Salsa Action Alert program.

5132 Legislative Agenda Brochure – Creation, printing and postage for Legislative Agenda Brochure

5133-1 Lobby Reports –Fee for submission of Bimonthly Lobby Reports & Semi-Annual Client Reports to NYS

DEVELOPMENT

5163-1 Election night reporting expenses are the share of income from the AP that is paid to the local Leagues for their participation (2/3 to Local Leagues and 1/3 to LWVNYS)

PROFESSIONAL FEES

5221-1 Audit -Expenses associated with the outside independent yearly audit of the League's books

TECHNOLOGY

5230-1 Repairs & Equipment –expenses for hardware maintenance and repairs

5230-2 Website hosting – Fee required to host website on internet and search engine annual fee.

5230-3 Website Maintenance – Expenses for webmaster to update, change or redesign website.

5230-4 Software – Expense for possible new software, eg, new Quickbooks programs.

5230-7 Email Subscription – monthly fee for Constant Contact license

5230-8 Gift Works – Expenses for database system (not budgeted in 2013-14)

SUPPLIES

5240-1 Supplies include stationery, water, pens, paper, staples, coffee, etc.

5240-2 Copying – copies on office copier, maintained by classes (projects) and renter’s usage

5240-6 Printing – printing of direct mail appeal and other outside printing services (printing of Voter Guides was included in this account this year)

POSTAGE

5250 Postage includes general postage for League business (postage for specific projects are charged to those projects)

TELEPHONE

5261-1 Telephone expenses include local, long distance and fax line.

5294-2 Internet – monthly fee for internet connection

TRAVEL

5265-2 Travel and transportation includes staff and board travel (travel for specific projects are charged to those projects)

MEALS/LODGING

5266 Facilities/Lodging/Meals – includes expenses for Board meetings (split with EF), Lobby Day and Regional Training Workshops (Lobby Day and Regional Workshops were not budgeted in 2013-14)

DUES, FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

5269 Dues, Fees and Subscriptions include payments to professional association memberships and subscriptions.

INSURANCE

5270-1 Workers’ Comp Insurance

5271-1.1 Insurance – Directors and Officers insurance indemnifies Board members and staff (shared with

LWVNYC)

5282-1 Insurance – General Liability Insurance includes coverage of the League (local and state) events (shared with LWVNYC).

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

5296-6 Credit Card expenses

5296-1 Checking Account expenses

5298-1 Master Card/Visa processing expenses

PAYROLL RELATED EXPENSES

5200-1 Gross Salaries of Executive Director, Part-time Finance Administrator, Fulltime Director of Program and Policy, Part time Communication and Development Coordinator, and Part-Time Administrative Assistant

5202-1 Employee benefits includes pension, FICA expense, Medicare expense, dental insurance, disability insurance, federal unemployment, NYS unemployment, workers compensation, etc. (employer portion only)

5216-1 Health Insurance - expenses associated with employee health insurance premiums or medical buyout for FT employees who decline health insurance

5200 Payroll Related Exps – Other – Expenses for payroll service

RENT

5280-1 Rent - LWVNYS rents office space from the EF for \$500 per month

MEETINGS

5301-1 State Convention Expenses

5302-1 National Convention/Council - Expenses associates with sending Board members to National Convention

PUBLICATIONS/PRODUCTS

5400 Publications Expenses – costs to purchase or create publications

5500 Products Expense – costs to purchase products to sell on website and at conventions, eg, mugs, t-shirts, banners.

LEAGUE ACCEPTANCE OF BUDGET

From the League of Women Voters of _____

Submitted by: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Please check one:

____ YES, we accept the 2014-2015 budget.

____ NO, we do not accept the 2014-2015 budget.

Comments:

Return to state League office no later than June 20, 2014

LWVNYS

62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207

Telephone: 518-465-4162

*

Fax: 518-465-0812

E-mail: lwny@lwny.org

DIRECTION TO THE BOARD

This is an opportunity for local Leagues to direct the State League Board to take action or consider an issue.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Sally Robinson, President

New State Studies

As adopted at the 2013 State Convention, the state League is undertaking two new studies and one update: term limits, ballot access and the constitutional convention procedures. State Committees on the Term Limits and Ballot Access studies have been meeting and distributing materials to the local Leagues. Consensus questions on Term Limits and Ballot Access will be distributed by June 2014 with results due to the state League office by January 31, 2015.

Term Limits

This is a study on term limits for the New York State legislature and statewide elected officials. The 1992 LWVUS Convention authorized state and local Leagues to use national positions and principles to take action against term limits for state or local office holders. The language adopted by the convention is permissive only; that is, it allows state and local Leagues to apply the national position in opposition to term limits at other levels, but it does not require opposition to term limits at other levels. It does not supersede positions arrived at by study and consensus at the state or local League level that may support term limits for state or local office. At the urging of several local Leagues, LWVNY is considering the issue of term limits via this study.

Ballot Access

This study will broadly examine how candidates get onto the ballot in the general election. It will potentially encompass the primary system, fusion voting, Wilson-Pakula, run-off voting, and other aspects of election law.

Constitutional Convention

This update will examine the League's position on New York's constitutional convention process with an emphasis on the method of delegate selection. There has been some interest expressed both inside and outside the League in supporting a constitutional convention as a way of fixing Albany. Under our current position, in all likelihood we would never be able to support a constitutional convention. This update will be very limited in scope, looking only at the delegate selection portion of the League's position.

ISSUES AND ADVOCACY ANNUAL REPORT
Sally Robinson, Issues and Advocacy

2013 Concurrence Results

The concurrence proposal on the **Great Lakes Ecosystem** passed and is now adopted by all eight Great Lakes states so the Leagues can now speak as a regional body when addressing conservation and restoration concerns. This will be a useful tool when communicating with our respective elected representatives!

The State League's concurrence on the Ohio's **human trafficking** position also passed by enough local Leagues to be adopted by June 30, 2013. The state League can now lobby for one more of the 10 points in the Women's Equality Act. Thanks to all of the local Leagues who responded so quickly. The new position adopted by this concurrence is as follows:

Human forced labor and sex trafficking should be stopped through legislation and changes in public policy. Those who have been commercially sexually exploited or coerced into slave labor, or who are minors, should be considered as victims of human trafficking. Victims of human trafficking should be provided with services to facilitate integration into the community.

Revised and Updated Impact on Issues

A revised and updated Impact on Issues was available as of September 2013, including action taken during the 2013 legislative session. It was distributed electronically, posted on the state website, and made available in hard copy for a small fee.

After receiving input from local leagues, the state Board approved the **2014 Legislative Agenda** at its December meeting.

Making New York State Work

Campaign Finance Reform

Support lower contribution limits, increased disclosure and a system of small donor matching funds. In particular, support stronger and effective campaign finance enforcement with increased penalties for violations.

Election Reform

Improve election processes to extend, encourage and protect voting, including paperless and Election Day registration, early voting, better ballot design, improved polling place management/poll worker training, a single June primary, and measures to ensure the integrity of all ballots.

Natural Resources

Support protection and management of New York's natural resources in the public interest, including energy conservation and energy options from renewable sources.

Women's Equality Agenda

Support equality for women and their families through preserving access to reproductive health care, ensuring fair treatment at work, and helping survivors of violence.

Other League Positions

The League also has positions on other Government Issues including Ethics, Transparency, and Individual Liberties, as well as Health Care, the Judiciary, State Finances, and Social Policy, including Transportation Policy, under which we can and do take action.

2014 Lobby Day (Advocacy Training Day)

Over 70 people joined us in Albany on February 3rd to learn about our advocacy agenda and hear from the League's Issue Specialists on their specific issues and expectations for this legislative session. All materials, including a summary from each Issue Specialist, are posted on the advocacy page of the state League website. These materials provide a wealth of information on a number of issues – all which are helpful as we ask for member action.

The **Legislative Packet** was sent to all local Leagues in March asking each local League to discuss the following issues with their individual legislators: election reform, the Women's Equality Act (including Pay Equity) and natural resources, in particular continuing support for a temporary moratorium and labeling waste from drilling and fracking activities as hazardous.. We are continuing to actively work on all these issues in the legislature this spring. Campaign finance reform was not included because it was anticipated to be part of the budget process

Campaign Finance Reform and the Moreland Commission

In July, 2013, Barbara Bartoletti, state League Legislative Director, was appointed by Governor Cuomo as one of four special advisors to the Moreland Commission to Investigate Public Corruption. In addition to investigating possible illegal activities, the Commission released a report in December 2013 with recommendations relating to comprehensive campaign finance reform.

In January and February, the League and other good government groups continually urged the Governor and the legislative leaders to use the budget to finally accomplish comprehensive campaign finance reform. The 2014 budget deal failed to achieve comprehensive reform and the Governor disbanded the Moreland Commission following budget passage. The League expressed our disappointment that Governor Cuomo and the Legislature failed to seize upon this historic opportunity to pass comprehensive campaign finance reform. We were particularly disturbed that the Governor failed to push more strongly to fully implement the findings of his own Moreland Commission.

New York Joins National Popular Vote Compact

On April 15, Governor Cuomo signed legislation adding New York State to the National Popular Vote Compact. Under this agreement, states award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes nationwide. The League supported this legislation as a means to ensure that the will of the majority of voters who participate in the election of the President is reflected.

League Commissioned Study on Economically Recoverable Natural Gas

On April 21, the League released a study conducted by Labyrinth Consulting Services, Inc. evaluating potential economically recoverable Marcellus shale natural gas in New York. The study, "Resource Assessment of Potentially Producing Natural Gas Volumes from the Marcellus Shale, State of New York", was done by petroleum geologist Arthur Berman and petroleum engineer Lyndon Pittinger, both with more than 30 years' experience in the energy business and concluded that New York is unlikely to have economically recoverable shale gas volumes at

current gas prices and overall, resource estimates are significantly smaller than those indicated in previous studies.

Forum on Election Reform Issues

On March 24, 2014 the League co-sponsored an educational forum with the Rockefeller Institute on election reform issues, including early voting, better ballot design, improved voter registration and absentee ballot procedures. Legislators joined Tom Wilkey, former Executive Director of the US Election Assistance Commission and former Executive Director of the NYS Board of Elections, and Daniel Kolb, Co-Chair of the NYS Bar Association's Special Committee on Voter Participation, on this panel discussion. Capitol Correspondent Susan Arbetter moderated. The forum was videotaped and a link was posted on the state League website.

GRASSROOTS DIRECTOR

Carol Mellor, camellor@aol.com

The State League organized two conference calls this year to allow members to hear directly from Issue Specialists about an issue – and ask questions about the issue. In November, we held the first call on the Women's Equality Agenda; over 20 members signed up in advance and more tuned into the ninety-minute discussion.

Barb Thomas gave a rundown of the history of the WEA, its journey through the legislative process last spring and the push to encourage the reconvening of the legislature before the end of the year. The participants were then given the opportunity to comment or ask questions and we discussed a range of issues from the on-going lobbying efforts of locals throughout the state, the reactions of their Senators to those meetings, attitudes of specific Senators who had been targeted for special attention by the coalition, the strategy of the coalition going forward. Questions about the method by which we reached consensus on the human trafficking portion of the legislation were asked, as were questions about the League position vis-à-vis the provision of the WEA which deals with attorney fees.

On Wednesday, January 22, we held the second of our Update on Issues conference call. Over 40 members signed up for the call although 70 actually joined in; this call centered on current energy and environment issues such as fracking and waste management.

Elisabeth (Beth) Radow, the Chair of the Committee on Energy, Agriculture and the Environment presented a wide ranging, thorough and riveting report on the issues of concern to anyone interested in the protection of our water, air and health.

Among the points contained in Beth's presentation are a reiteration of the fact that fracking is not, at the present time, being practiced in this state and, as a result, other concerns are at the forefront of the committees' work such as efforts to pass legislation which would characterize and require the treatment of waste from gas drilling as "hazardous waste." Use of fracking byproducts on roads in this state and concerns about transportation of waste materials into this

state through our railroads and vehicle roads. Other topics discussed were the proposed offshore liquefied natural gas facility off the shore of New York City and other plans in New York State to retrofit older energy facilities to enable them to process liquefied natural gas.

The League is currently organizing another Conference Call on education issues and also expects to organize one on redistricting issues before the end of June.

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

**Dare Thompson, VP Membership, darethompson@gmail.com
Terri Parks, Regional Directors Coordinator, lwvoter@verizon.net**

Along with the other Membership Team members, Kathy Stein (St. Lawrence Co. and LWVNYS board) and Lisa Scott (Smithtown and Suffolk Co. ILO), we are focused on helping your Leagues remain strong and grow. We're pleased that in spite of the disbandment of the Orleans County LWV and the Hamilton County MAL Unit, so many Leagues are bucking the general trend of almost all U.S. non-profits by holding even or growing their numbers. A chart of the past ten years is shown below.

Our organized efforts to help you are outlined below, but know that we are always here to consult with you about matters big and small. Our team is spread across the state so someone may even be able to attend a board meeting or other gathering. Just contact us.

REGIONAL MEETINGS: What a pleasure it was to get together with almost 200 of you at the meetings in Albany (3/1), Binghamton (3/8), Cold Spring Harbor, LI (3/29) and Rochester (4/5)! It was an important investment by LWVNYS in strengthening our invaluable network of local Leagues. In the membership and leadership workshops we stressed the importance of being **positive** (welcoming, focused on assets rather than deficits, having fun), **personal** (listening for, embracing and addressing the diversity of others' needs, commitments, strengths), **intentional** (setting priorities, goals; making plans), **active** (making a difference in our communities), and **visible**. Above all, we reminded attendees that we have to **ASK** if we want to get members, leaders, or anything else! The workshops on visibility and fundraising often echoed these principles. Of course these topics were about means to our ultimate goals of education and advocacy, which other workshops addressed. Thanks to all attendees – you energized us!

MAL Units: No, we didn't drop the E! MAL = Members at Large. There are currently three MAL Units in operation – St. Lawrence County, Southern Westchester, and Wayne County – and, under the leadership of LWVNYS board and membership team member, Kathleen Stein of St. Lawrence (kstein1@twcny.rr.com), they have started to participate in conference calls to learn from and support one another. While we hope that MALunits will eventually become full-fledged Leagues, they can be very effective even at this stage.

MEMBERSHIP and LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (MLD). Many smart Leagues have learned that checking in with an MLD coach helps them keep on track with the plans they've

made, remember to use “best practices,” and incorporate new League-building tips sent on monthly by LWVUS. If your League would like a coach, please contact Lisa Scott, the state MLD coordinator at lisawscott@gmail.com. To learn more about the MLD program, contact Lisa or either of us. It’s free and **MLD is helping the LWV completely reverse the declining membership trend!**

REGIONAL CALLS, which are held quarterly after each state board meeting, are an important effort to make sure local Leagues know about the recent actions of the LWVNYS board and staff. They are also part of an effort to get local League leaders to know one another, share ideas, and possibly even work together. To maximize their effectiveness, the membership team recently reorganized these calls around geographic regions. We hope this will lead to closer communication, networking and occasional partnering in activities among neighboring Leagues.

Recognizing that Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) already promote such geographic coordination, the ILO presidents will be the regional callers for their Leagues. **We encourage League presidents or their designees to participate in the conference calls and to take advantage of every opportunity to learn from one another.** We certainly enjoy and learn from our own conversations with League leaders!

League of Women Voters of NYS Membership Report 2004-2014

LEAGUE NAME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Albany County	234	260	276	279	272	257	255	231	235	173	192
Bedford/Lewisbr/N Salem	44	67	55	61	57	44	40	27	28	37	28
Bronxville	135	148	142	135	127	142	121	80	82	0	0
Brookhaven	90	100	90	96	99	90	84	74	70	70	65
Broome and Tioga Co.	137	137	133	144	128	126	111	109	109	109	100
Buffalo/Niagara	314	394	390	405	371	377	321	238	225	224	213
Cazenovia	61	50	57	49	46	46	47	37	41	35	32
Central Nassau	45	57	59	64	43	48	49	39	35	35	27
Chautauqua County	158	130	105	121	124	126	108	93	88	88	83
Chemung County	24	30	31	26	27	35	29	34	15	20	20
Columbia County	29	33	36	33	33	27	35	0	0	0	0
Cooperstown Area	45	52	50	38	39	36	33	24	34	40	47
Cortland County	33	28	29	22	25	26	30	26	29	29	24
East Nassau	78	92	86	96	83	78	80	59	53	53	47

COUNCIL KIT

May, 2014

Eastern Putnam County	0	0	0	0	0	15	23	20	5	5	5
Geneva	89	106	103	91	78	77	60	55	53	50	46
Great Neck	96	96	77	68	67	74	58	39	0	0	0
Greater Oneida Area	15	18	19	21	13	15	11	11	10	8	7
Hamptons	255	223	199	185	187	187	165	144	135	124	133
Harrison	57	65	62	59	60	50	49	41	43	34	36
Huntington	57	64	74	76	70	78	91	90	87	85	89
Larchmont/Mamaroneck	174	175	167	159	149	131	102	89	90	76	83
Long Beach	127	120	118	105	97	86	51	44	42	47	27
LWVNYS	63	104	115	68	133	141	88	94	91	89	57
Mid Hudson Region	113	130	130	132	129	108	114	88	94	91	90
New Castle	152	186	175	190	184	163	128	103	85	92	86
New Rochelle	132	131	115	119	110	101	95	85	89	77	74
New York City	762	828	754	769	665	541	500	243	265	205	199
Oneonta	96	109	114	109	105	79	67	57	52	48	46
Orleans County	0	0	0	25	22	26	18	12	13	14	0
North Country (previously Plattsburgh)	32	39	43	41	40	37	38	36	32	42	52
Port Washington	159	175	164	185	147	132	132	108	133	118	142
Rensselaer County	100	107	102	100	100	98	101	89	84	77	81
Rivertowns	103	111	93	97	93	78	87	47	41	53	73
Rochester Metro	262	291	282	290	287	289	278	146	135	131	132
Rockland County	73	77	72	76	75	69	73	47	50	50	34
Rye-Rye Brook	43	44	46	80	57	39	49	47	53	37	51
Saratoga County	140	166	170	173	181	177	169	150	144	150	161
Saugerties	43	35	39	36	24	18	25	22	14	24	24
Scarsdale	342	354	360	316	299	290	259	275	223	203	220
Schenectady County	140	155	172	181	167	156	162	149	131	132	129
Schuyler	59	64	60	62	54	49	45	39	39	21	21
Shelter Island	53	57	38	58	79	83	38	34	33	46	42
Smithtown	60	60	59	55	55	51	46	37	38	37	36
Somers	127	133	149	138	129	128	126	134	116	105	99
Southwest Nassau	163	152	169	149	122	127	116	101	83	82	76
Steuben County	0	0	0	22	20	23	22	23	25	24	24

Syracuse Metro.	109	105	106	100	103	94	93	86	85	102	100
Tompkins County	151	154	149	155	148	130	123	121	106	103	90
Utica Metro. Area	48	64	61	44	52	57	55	54	53	57	54
Warren County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	17	9	13
White Plains	170	187	199	161	165	153	141	130	125	134	145
TOTALS	5992	6463	6294	6264	5940	5608	5141	4179	3958	3695	3655
Hamilton							11			8	0
Orange							17			0	0
Wayne							9			17	13
St. Lawrence/Jefferson							23			21	13
Southern Westchester										19	14

VOTE 411 ANNUAL REPORT

Marianna Stout, marianna.stout@att.net

The state League covered the bulk of the cost of Vote411 for the second year. This allowed the 43 local Leagues using Vote411 to pay only \$25 each to produce a 2013 electronic Voters Guide. Leagues using Vote411 include: Albany County, Brookhaven, Broome/Tioga, Buffalo/Niagara, Cazenovia, Chautauqua, Cortland County, Geneva, Hamptons, Huntington, Mid-Hudson, Nassau County ILO (5 local Leagues), New York State, NYC, North Country, Rensselaer County, Rochester, Saratoga County, Schenectady County, Smithtown, St. Lawrence MAL, Suffolk County, Syracuse, Tompkins, Utica/Rome, Wayne County MAL Unit, Westchester County ILO (11 local Leagues). Most of the Leagues have already signed up for the 2014 election season with a couple of other local Leagues also joining.

Vote411 training, both beginner and advanced, was provided at four regional training sessions throughout the state between March and April of 2014. The state League will also be participating in a national pilot program to provide a statewide Vote411 calendar for candidate forum/debates and will also take advantage of a new feature to make available .pdf versions of Voters Guides in Vote411. Several Leagues will be participating in another initiative by LWVUS and the state League to negotiate partnerships with local newspapers to support Vote411 financially and to extend the visibility of the information in the Voters Guide. Finally, for the 2014 general election, the state League will cover all state-level races in the state's Vote411 Voters Guide. That will include the races for: Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, and all Congressional races.

VOTER SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT**Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director, laura@lwvny.org**

The State League produced two paper Voter Guides during the past year. Voter Guide, Part I, included information on how to register, obtain absentee ballots and voting procedures; over 11,000 Voter Guides, Part I were distributed statewide by our local Leagues. In Part II, a description of the six proposals that were on the ballot in November was provided, as well as some pros and cons of each proposal. This Guide was extremely popular requiring the state League to reprint the brochure twice during the fall, resulting in over 22,000 brochures being distributed statewide by our local Leagues. We also were able to provide a Spanish version of the Voter Guide Part II.

2013 Voter Service Survey Results

I am pleased to report the results of our Voter Service Survey from the fall 2013 election season. Thanks to everyone who completed the survey – and keep up the great work! The following results were received from 27 local Leagues:

- 26 held forums or debates
- 15 held them with other organizations
- Attendance ranged from 25-900 people at the forums
- 21 had questions from the audience
- 15 had questions written and screened
- 5 allowed people to ask questions from a microphone
- 14 videotaped the events
- 2 used Youtube and social media sites
- 10 aired on Public Access channels
- 19 leagues had events covered by media
- 10 provided moderators or time keepers for other organizations
- 5 Leagues requested payment for these services
- 16 have debate policies or guidelines (but from what was submitted, it's guidelines mostly)
- 8 published local voter guides
- 10 stated that the state Voter Guides could be improved
- 21 held voter registration drives (over 156 drives registering over 2500 voters)
- 19 distributed absentee ballot applications
- 6 used TV or radio for Get Out the Vote efforts
- 10 sent LTEs
- 1 developed a PSA
- 12 attend naturalization ceremonies and distribute forms there

Youth Programs

Judie Gorenstein, Citizen Education/Youth Programs Director,
judie728@aol.com

I am pleased to report that local Leagues, ILOs and MALS continue to reach out to youth in their communities and engage them. This year 60 students from all over the state will be attending Students Inside Albany ,from 40 Leagues, including ILOS and MALS and three Leagues will be sending students for the first time. Because of how Easter and Passover fell this year, Students Inside Albany is being held May 18-21, 2014, much later than in the past. Several Leagues have reported that this later date has made it difficult to recruit students. As always, we will be responsive to feedback and will continuously try to enhance an already very successful program.

The goal of every youth programs is to engage youth and encourage them to become educated and involved future voters. We have known that the younger voters are the least likely to turn out and vote. This year the Commission on Youth Voting and Civic Knowledge Report, stressed the need for civic education and political educational engagement in schools, particularly in disadvantaged areas. This year also LWVUS EF provided Leagues with a pass-through grant to register youth and provided materials and webinars providing best practices to register and engage youth. Therefore as chair of youth programs, I hope that your League puts an emphasis on programs that not only register students to vote but engage them. Vote 18, an interactive lesson plan program, which has been demonstrated at our past LWVNY conventions, appears on our youth webpage and also meets criteria of best practices. The LWV of Huntington has brought this program to well over 4,000 students in neighboring high schools. Recently, I have modified and updated the lesson in order that it can be accomplished in a 45 minute classroom and is timely. I had publicized this program in the January State Voter, and in fact, seven Leagues have requested a copy of the plan. Debbie Reisner, president of the LWV of Rye/ Ryebrook /Portchester had me conduct a workshop which members of the LWV of White Plains attended. As a result they have reached out to local high schools and the LWV of White Plains will be presenting this program in six schools. However, other Leagues did not feel this program was right for their communities.

There is no ONE perfect program. All Leagues are encouraged not only to do what works best with their youth but to let the LWVNY know what their programs are. Only then will we know all the work with youth that are local Leagues are doing. The youth web page can be a tool for all Leagues to use. It can be a place where Leagues who are looking for ways to work with their youth can go. It can also be a place where different Leagues offer both their successes and problems with various programs. We can all learn from one another. We can continue to expand and improve our work with youth throughout the state. Remember, OUR YOUTH ARE OUR FUTURE!!!