
LWV Chautauqua County
PO Box 42
Fredonia, New York 14063

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The Leaguer

Volume 21, Issue 4
December – January 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
lww@lwwchautauqua.org, 672-4275

Date: January 10th
Time: 12:00
Place: Alumni House Fredonia Campus
Brown Bag Luncheon
Coffee, Tea and dessert provided.
Topic: Central Connection
Speaker: Virginia Horvath



Mayors Rosas and Landis will be in attendance.

How can we work together to promote our region?

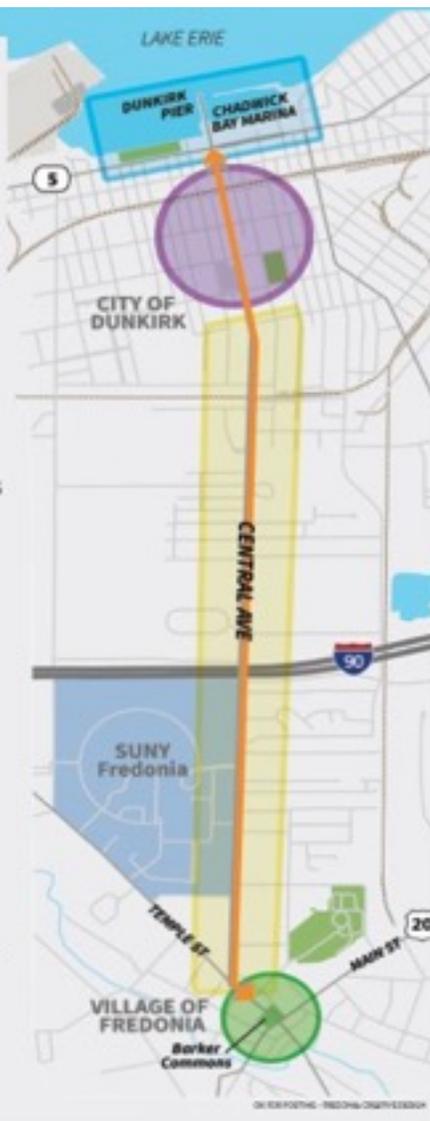
- our arts & our culture
- our trails & our tastes
- our neighborhoods & our businesses
- our diversity & our likeness
- our knowledge & our wisdom

An open discussion of issues and opportunities.

Come and take an active role in our future.

Our communities are stronger together.

Find out more: search "CentralAveConnection" on Facebook.



RESERVATION FORM

January 10th at Noon – The Alumni House

Please contact Mary Croxton at 679-1774, mcroxton51@gmail.com to reserve a place.



From the Leadership Team...

For most of us the outcome of the November 8th election was a surprise. Like the pundits and the pollsters, many of us imagined electing the first woman President as a fitting accomplishment as we approach the 100th anniversary of Woman Suffrage in New York State one year from now.

At the luncheon meeting one day after the election, we asked ourselves, "What do we as a local League want to do differently?"

We will go on. We will gain equal pay for equal work. We will eliminate harassment based on gender. We will advance our positions on Voting, the Environment, Money in Politics, Governance, Health Care, Gun Safety, and Immigration until they become the law of the land.

Be sure to renew your membership and ask a friend to join. Bring that friend to our next luncheon meeting.

Warmly,

Minda Rae Amiran, Priscilla Bernatz, Mary Croxton, Gen Ludemann, Marcia Merrins, Judy Reynolds, Rose Sebouhian, Linda Warner

Program Committee Updates

The program committee met Monday Nov. 21st at 1:30 at the home of Deb Schwert.

We reviewed our October and November meetings. We noted if any members are interested in taking an active role in advocating for better addiction treatment response, some suggestions were discussed:

1. Advocate the issues by attending their meetings.
2. Lobby at County legislative meetings, city or village board meetings.
3. Write your elected officials.
4. Attend State League Day

February 8th is a luncheon at the Clarion Hotel for a discussion on transgender issues. Marcia Merrins and Judi Lutz-Wood are chairing this event. Plan to invite a friend.

In March we will host a program of environmental interest. Mary Croxton and Percy Bernatz are planning to inform us on waste management and recycling.

April 26th we gather at Moonbrook Country Club to hear pros and cons on convening the New York State Constitutional Convention. Voters will be asked to vote on this in Nov. 2017. Come! Be an informed voter. Visit the internet, collect articles, and list your questions. This program is chaired by Diane Hofner and Gen Ludemann. Please volunteer to help on any of these luncheons. Materials will arrive soon from State League for small groups to study the meaning, objectives and time-line for this Constitutional Convention.

Our year winds down with our annual dinner in mid-May. Watch the Leaguer for speakers, awards and venue. Mark your calendar and invite a prospective member.

Good Health and Happiness,
Gen Ludemann, chair

Mock Elections

By Minda Rae Amiran

This is part of a letter (slightly edited) sent to the Board of Elections by LWV participants in the Mock Elections in Chautauqua County schools.

The League was glad to join with the Chautauqua County Board of Elections in executing the mock elections project in so many schools, and we believe that we carried it out as planned. However, while at least two schools did a fine job of preparing their students for the exercise, most of the schools we served did not, and missed the educational opportunity we had worked hard to provide.

Specifically, in two schools the students didn't know the elections were taking place and had to be recruited to come and vote by League members going from table to table in the school cafeteria. In other schools, the students were brought to vote in class groups by the class teacher, but hadn't seen the ballots (when these had been delivered in advance), often didn't know who was who, or that they could choose only one person for president, or what the parties stood for (many had never seen the "cheat sheets" we sent to each school's contact person). Again, in two schools they were well prepared and in some of the other schools the older students had some idea about voting, but showed no knowledge of or interest in the issues. For the younger students in particular (grades 5-8 in some schools, or 6-8 or 7-8) the whole experience amounted to feeling the scanner grab their ballot. That a third of the schools didn't choose to take part in the elections tells us something.

There is reason to believe that some teachers didn't want to discuss the elections in their classes for fear of acrimonious class battles or reprisals from angry parents. Some students personally known to our members told them about bullying and intimidation by other students in their schools. We believe that a preparation focused on the voting process--how one can learn about the candidates and decide how to vote- would avoid quarrels and emphasize civic engagement, and we are willing to develop talking-points for teachers or to provide teacher in-services or help in any way the schools and teachers would wish or allow. In short, we are committed to voter education and continue to be committed to the process you've initiated but we believe that in any future mock elections involving us, the schools will have to commit to making the elections a meaningful educational event, not just an exercise in feeding ballots into the machine. They will have to know that if we are working in a school and find that the students are as unprepared as most were this year, we will pack up and leave.

The Election Commissioners have responded to our letter, agreeing with our assessment of the situation. They, too, feel that the effort is not matched by its results. They are not planning to continue the project in future years.

**Understanding the Transgender Community
February at Noon
The Clarion Hotel**

Traditional Club Sandwich

Crisp Bacon, turkey, ham, lettuce, tomato, and cheese served on your choice of bread

Bacon Cheese Burger - A 1/3 lb. patty flamed broiled on a toasted Kaiser Roll

Sliced tomato, leaf lettuce, crisp bacon, and pickle

Beef on Weck - Slow roasted choice of sirloin served with au jus

Smoked Chicken Sandwich - Marinated grilled chicken breast, pepper jack cheese, sriracha mayo, lettuce and tomato

Chicken Caesar Salad - Char-Broiled Boneless Chicken Breast served on a bed of romaine lettuce Caesar Dressing, Parmesan Cheese and adorned with Croutons

Souvlaki salad - Chicken, Tomato, Olives, cucumbers, feta cheese, mixed greens, greek vinaigrette dressing, and pita points

All entrees include dessert. \$15

Please send selection and payment to: Marcia Merrins, 42 Rosalyn Court, Fredonia, NY 14063
If you would like to attend the program only, please contact Marcia at 672-4275,
mmerrins@netsync.net to reserve a place.

Name _____

Phone _____ email _____



Dr. Boerner serves as the Chief Diversity Officer for the State University of New York At Fredonia. In this role he oversees the office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and has Affirmative Action, Title IX, and ADA compliance responsibilities. Dr. Boerner has an extensive background in Student Affairs Administration and Social Justice education. He received his BA in Social Science from Keene State College, an MA in Education from the University of Connecticut, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Johnson & Wales University.

A native of New England, Dr. Boerner presents regularly on topics related to identity, Social Justice, inclusion, LGBTQA issues, understanding bias, and navigating transitions.

Dr. Bill Boerner, CAAP
Chief Diversity Officer & Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Title IX Coordinator, Affirmative Action Officer, & ADA Compliance Officer
The State University of New York at Fredonia

Transgender 101

A whole new vocabulary: terms and definitions

- **GENDER IDENTITY:** A person's deeply held sense or psychological knowledge of their own gender. One's gender identity can be the same or different than the gender assigned at birth. Most people have a gender identity that matches their assigned gender at birth. For some, however, their gender identity is different from their assigned gender. All people have a gender identity, not just transgender people. Gender identity is an innate, largely inflexible characteristic of each individual's personality that is generally established by age four, although the age at which individuals come to understand and express their gender identity may vary based on each person's social and familial social development. **Gender identity is DIFFERENT FROM sexual orientation.**
- **GENDER EXPRESSION:** The manner in which a person represents or expresses gender to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, activities, voice or mannerisms.
- **TRANSGENDER:** An *adjective* describing a person whose gender identity or expression is different from that traditionally associated with an assigned sex at birth. Other terms that can have similar meanings are transsexual (a little different meaning, more narrow category of transgendered persons) and trans.
- **TRANSITION:** The process (and period of time) in which a person goes from living and identifying as one gender to living and identifying as another.
- **GENDER NONCONFORMING:** A term for people whose gender expression differs from stereotypical expectations, such as "feminine" boys, "masculine" girls, and those who are perceived as androgynous. This includes people who identify outside traditional gender categories or identify as both genders. Other terms that can have similar meanings include gender diverse or gender expansive.

What do I call you?

Transgender and gender nonconforming youth use a number of words to describe their lives and gendered experiences. To list just a few examples, these students may refer to themselves as *trans*, *transsexual*, *transgender*, *male-to-female (MTF)*, *female-to-male (FTM)*, *bi-gender*, *two-spirit*, *trans man*, *trans woman*, and a variety of other terms.

Terminology and language describing transgender individuals can differ based on region, language, race or ethnicity, age, culture, and many other factors. Generally speaking, school staff and educators should inquire which terms students may prefer and avoid terms that make these students uncomfortable; a good general guideline is to employ those terms which the students use to describe themselves. "*Transgender*" is an *adjective*, not a *noun* so it is more appropriate to say "transgender person" instead of "transgender".

Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act

From Wikipedia

The **Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)** is a proposed New York law which adds gender identity and expression as a protected class in the state's human rights and hate crimes laws, prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and other areas, and providing enhanced penalties for bias-motivated crimes. It was first introduced in both the Assembly and Senate in 2003 and has been passed for the 8th time in the Assembly since 2007, but has never come to a vote on the floor of the State Senate. It is promoted as a priority of Empire State Pride Agenda, which previously promoted the SONDA law, which was enacted into law in 2003.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JANUARY 10	NOON	Brown Bag Luncheon - ALUMNI HOUSE – SUNY FREDONIA Topic: CENTRAL CONNECTION
JANUARY 16	1:30 pm	BOARD MEETING - MARY CROXTON'S 22 GILLIS STREET, FREDONIA
FEBRUARY 8	NOON	LUNCHEON AT THE CLARION HOTEL Topic: TRANSGENDER ISSUES
MARCH	TBA	Topic: WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING
APRIL 26	NOON	Luncheon Moonbrook Country Club Topic: New York State Constitutional Convention: Pros and Cons

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carolyngrady.com

Fairmount House
ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, GIFTS
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708-8549



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Fredonia, NY, 14063 – 679-9966

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

lww@lwwchautauqa.org, 672-4275



The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Invite a Friend to Join or Give the Gift Of League Membership!!

Make Your Voice Heard! Join Us Today!

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County Management Team

- Minda Rae Amiran
Priscilla Bernatz
Mary Croxton
Gen Ludemann
Marcia Merrins
Judy Reynolds
Rose Sebouhian
Linda Warner

Membership Form

Mail to:

LWV Chautauqua

P.O. Box 42 Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2017 Individual: \$60; Family: \$90; Student: \$25 (Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

I would like to get involved with:

Local Issues Voter Service State/National Issues

Local Newsletter

Assisting with minor tasks occasionally

Other: _____