

2015-2016

ANNUAL REPORT



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION FOUNDATION



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Dare Thompson (r) with “Elizabeth Cady Stanton” (Melinda Grube) at a meeting of the Women’s Suffrage 100th Anniversary Commission at Seneca Falls

The League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE LWWNYS EDUCATION FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation is the educational and fundraising arm of the League of Women Voters of New York State. It derives its strength from the energy and commitment of the women and men in over 50 Local Leagues and Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) throughout the state. Strictly nonpartisan, it works primarily on projects that educate the electorate.

The charitable support of individuals, corporations and foundations throughout New York State helps the LWWNYS Education Foundation accomplish its three main goals:

- To educate people on the importance of their participation in government, in the political process and in the life of their home community;
- To create awareness of issues at local, state and national levels and to inform citizens how they can have an impact; and
- To instill in young people and new citizens the knowledge of their new role and responsibilities in government.

The LWWNYS Education Foundation is incorporated under the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of New York and is classified as a public educational charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions to the LWWNYS Education Foundation are fully tax deductible.

Since becoming president of the state League, one of the loveliest things I get to do is thank donors. What starts out as a list of names that is slightly intimidating (Will they resent the intrusion? Will I know what to say?) is transformed into a list of friendly and smart new friends. And why should I be surprised? I've been in the League since my 20s – which means many, many League gatherings – and that's what I've always found.



League people care about and are curious about their world and their fellow citizens and they are generous with time, hospitality, and resources. Gossipy chit chat is rare; free-wheeling conversations that hit on lots of topics are the norm. Opinions are enthusiastically shared, but minds are open to contrary views.

No matter where I moved in my earlier years, the League was always my “home.” Every state and local League is delightfully unique but the qualities above are always there. Recently I experienced that sense of community at our most eastern League - Shelter Island - with a ferry ride as a bonus.

I hope you are inspired by reading about all the things the state League has done this year in collaboration with our great network of local Leagues. In this annual report, we have updates on everything from youth education and voter service to the potential for a constitutional convention. Our work for good government takes many forms.

I've been fortunate to be able to participate in all of these different activities. Notably, this spring, I chaperoned Students Inside Albany (SIA) for the fourth time. (I brought my husband along twice.) We could fill a whole booklet with stories just about our experiences with the students who come to Albany each year and learn about state government. I just found out that a former SIA grad ran for Congress this year and said that his SIA experience had turned him on to politics!

And if that wasn't exciting enough, I'm also participating in preparations for the 100th anniversaries of women getting the vote in NY in 1917 and the state League being founded in 1919. I just got back from Seneca Falls where the state Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary Commission, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, had its first meeting. I'm delighted to be a part of this Commission. The League is the living legacy of the national organization that began there in Seneca Falls, and there will be so many exciting ways for us to celebrate our past, present, and future. Please be thinking about how YOU will be participating – in big ways or small.

I look forward to seeing or talking with you in 2016-17 however you choose to be involved. Meanwhile I thank you for being part of our passionate and curious community and for helping make all this important work possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dare Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dare Thompson
President

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Mission: To instill in young people and new citizens the knowledge of their new role and responsibilities as voters.



BUILDING OUR NEXT GENERATION OF VOTERS AND LEGISLATORS

Students Inside Albany 2016

Last May, 58 high school students, representing 41 local Leagues, MAL Units and ILOs converged on Albany to spend four days learning about state government and how they could create change in their communities. The students came from all over New York and ranged from freshmen to seniors in high school. They arrived energetic and enthusiastic to learn about New York state government.

There were several highlights during the conference (see schedule on right) but one that particularly engaged students was learning to lobby with League Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti. As in past years, students commented

that they love practicing lobbying on a real legislator. First, Barbara Bartoletti provided them with the dos and don'ts of lobbying including how to approach legislators, make their arguments, and be persuasive. Senator George Latimer then joined the group to allow students to lobby him on an issue of their choice. The Senator really engaged with the students and was very generous with his time and advice.

Lobbying practice is followed by another student favorite, shadowing their legislators. Students find their Assembly member's office and shadow him or her for the afternoon. They were escorted onto the Assembly floor and introduced on the floor of the chamber. They saw the legislators at their desks and watched the chamber in session, sometimes sitting right beside their Assembly member. They also got the chance to shadow their Senators on the following afternoon and were escorted to the floor to watch the Senate session.



Schedule for Students Inside Albany 2016

SUNDAY, MAY 22

How Does New York State Government Work?

Blair Horner, Executive Director, NY Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS)

MONDAY, MAY 23

Tips for Being a Successful Citizen Lobbyist

Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, LWVNYS

Tour of NYS Capitol

Legislators and Lobbyists

Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, LWVNYS

With Special Guest:

Senator George Latimer, Democrat/Working Families, NYS Senate District 37, Westchester County

SHADOW ASSEMBLY

Presentation and Discussion on Proposed Constitutional Convention

Peter Galie, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Canisius College Author, Ordered Liberty: A Constitutional History of New York; co-author, The New York

Constitution 2nd ed. and the upcoming New York's Broken Constitution: The Governance Crisis and the Path to Renewed Greatness

Bowling

TUESDAY, MAY 24

Political Activism: How Citizens Make a Difference

Jasmine Gripper, Legislative Coordinator & Statewide Education Advocate, Alliance for Quality Education Blair Horner, Executive Director, NYPIRG

Role of the Court in Policy Making

Gary Spencer, Public Information Officer, NYS Court of Appeals

SHADOW SENATE

Hudson River Cruise

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

How Does NYS Government Work – Final Question and Answer Period

Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, LWVNYS

Recognition Ceremony

Students Inside Albany – A Student’s Story

Umamah Masum

Sponsored by the LWV of the City of New York



2016 Students Inside Albany (SIA) attendee, Umamah Masum, is no stranger to lobbying or working for causes she believes in. This high school senior is already a volunteer with Global Kids, a non-profit youth organization that goes to underserved schools and teaches students about world issues. She is also part of the Bangladeshi American Advocacy Group where she uses her bilingual abilities to help people in the Bengali community in New York vote and become more involved with government. She has traveled to Washington DC and to Albany to advocate on behalf of these groups, and she has even gone to Japan with Global Kids.

Reading all of that, you might think, what could SIA teach a student who is already that politically involved? Umamah has the answer, **“SIA was amazing. Meeting the elected officials was eye-opening – I didn’t realize how ‘down to earth’ they are. And, even though I had a good idea of how state government worked, I still learned so much more than could ever be taught in a classroom.”**

Umamah went on to say that SIA helped her tremendously with her other civic volunteer work because she really learned the ins and outs of lobbying with Barbara Bartoletti, LWVNY Legislative Director. She admires how Barbara, together with Blair Horner, NYPIRG Executive Director, were very straightforward about corruption in government and why that means the people who care about good government need to get involved. As she says, “If we involve ourselves in state government, things would change!”

Umamah has big plans for her future. Once she graduates from high school in Staten Island, she hopes to earn a degree in political science and then go on to a Master’s degree or law school. **“SIA influenced this decision because it made me sure of my plan. The experience showed me that participating in the government is something I definitely want in my career.”**

Students overwhelmingly report that shadowing their legislators is the best part of Students Inside Albany. They express surprise that legislators are real people trying to do a good job and they enjoy getting an insider’s perspective on Assembly and Senate sessions.

The 2016 SIA program also featured a talk about the possibility and ramifications of a state constitutional convention by Peter Galie, a leading expert on state constitutional conventions and professor emeritus at Canisius College. He explained what is currently in our constitution and the method for adopting amendments. He also discussed past constitutional conventions and issues that could be debated in a new convention.

There was an active session led by Jasmine Gripper, Education Advocate from the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE), on education issues and the methods AQE uses to advocate for these issues. The topic was of particular interest to the students who asked many questions on financing education and also on the hot topics of Common Core and the teacher evaluation system APPR. Blair Horner from NYPIRG spoke again to



POP-UP FACT:

Since 2001, 614 high school students have attended Students Inside Albany.

the students about NYPIRG’s activities in lobbying, as well as NYPIRG’s activities on many college campuses around the state. This gave our seniors

advance knowledge of how to get involved when they become college freshmen.

And, just for fun, the students also went bowling one night and, on another evening, enjoyed a boat cruise on the Hudson River.

On our final morning, Barbara Bartoletti engaged the students in a discussion of what they saw in the Assembly and Senate. Much of the discussion surrounded questions on procedures and voting in both chambers and the role of leadership in each chamber. **At least five students had already been offered internships in the legislators’ offices for the summer.**

“The fast-paced and intellectually challenging atmosphere was so interesting, and the potential to create change is something I want from a career.”

Thanks to all of our Students Inside Albany Conference sponsors.



EDUCATION

Mission: To educate people on the importance of their participation in government, in the political process, and in the life of their home community.

BUILDING TOOLS FOR PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

During the 2016 election cycle, voters have been lighting up our phone lines with calls asking about everything from registering for primaries to how to change their party affiliation and where they can cast their vote. We love talking to voters and making sure they have what they need to get out and cast an educated vote. In addition to talking directly with people, we also have several voter guides including an electronic voter guide, vote411.org.

THE ELECTRONIC VOTER GUIDE – VOTE411.ORG

With so many contentious political races on the horizon, now more than ever the League is working to help voters make informed decisions. Our newest tool is Vote411.org, our electronic voter guide. This was only our third year using the program and already it has grown and increased viewership by nearly 100% since its beginning. From January 1st, 2015 through November 3rd, 2015, VOTE411 had over 630,000 visits, and over 300,000 of those visits included the online voter guides. That represents an over 99% increase in visits nationwide to the voter guides on VOTE411 as compared to 2013, the last comparable election. Last election cycle we boasted a 29% increase and we anticipate viewership being at an all-time high during the upcoming presidential election.

Our electronic voter guide is made possible by the persistence and dedication of our 45 participating local Leagues. Our local Leagues track the elections occurring in their regions, collect candidate data, and research any potential ballot questions. The Leagues ask candidates to participate by uploading their own biographical information and a photo. The candidates are also asked to answer several questions that help voters see where they stand on contentious issues.

Vote411 uses a voter's address to create an electronic ballot containing information about all the races in that area. Local Leagues cover local and state races; the state League covers federal races and helps to cover state races in areas where no local League exists.

Vote411.org continues to be funded by LWWNYS Education Foundation. Thanks to the generous support received from EF donors, again this year the state League was able to pay for the license fee for our local Leagues to utilize Vote411.org. Local Leagues are required to pay only a \$25 "commitment fee" toward the licensing of [Vote411](http://Vote411.org). Training on the technology is also provided to all local Leagues.



LOCAL LEAGUE SPOTLIGHT

A crowd of over 600 people turned out for the LWV of Utica/Rome sponsored pre-Primary Mayoral debate in Rome, NY.

Photo: Makenzi Enos / Rome Sentinel / September 2015

Organ Donor Partnership

For the second year, the state League joined in an innovative partnership with the New York Alliance for Donation (NYAD) to increase voter registrations and organ donor registrations. NYAD's mission is to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in New York State through collaborative advocacy, education, promotion, and research. Their goal is to ensure a transplant for every New Yorker in need. In 2009, New York became the first state to include an organ and tissue donor enrollment section on voter registration forms. Since inception, over 160,000 individuals have joined the New York State Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry via voter registration forms. This partnership seeks to increase the number of registered organ and tissue donors in New York while simultaneously increasing participation in government through voter registration drives.

POP-UP FACT:

During the first two years of this grant, almost 12,500 voter registration forms were completed and 29% (over 3,000 people) also completed the organ donor section of the form.

Each year, League volunteers hold countless voter registration events and candidate forums to educate voters about their options on Election Day. The state League’s Education Foundation is proud to offer them a variety of tools – from online to traditional– to aid their efforts.

OTHER VOTER GUIDES

In addition to Vote411, we also provide several traditional paper brochures that local League members distribute at events and public venues in their regions. The LWWNYS Education Foundation funds the research, writing and printing of the League’s voter education publications. All of these materials are available for purchase from the state League, but all are also posted online at the state League website (lwwny.org).

Publication	Description	2015/2016 Statewide Distribution
Voter Guide, Part I	Includes information on primary and general election dates and deadlines, voter registration, absentee ballot procedures, military voting, and how to use the voting equipment	21,300
First Vote, A Guide for New Voters in New York State	An 8-page primer for first-time voters, available in English and Spanish, this booklet includes information on who is eligible to vote, voter registration requirements, voting procedures, absentee voting, and election dates for various levels of government.	15,000
Your Right to Vote in New York State	This series of four pamphlets, prepared in concert with the NYS Bar Association, covers voting rights and voting information for four special populations: 1) College Students 2) Homeless Individuals 3) Individuals with Disabilities 4) Individuals with Mental Health Disabilities 5) Individuals with Criminal Convictions	10,950
Citizen Lobbyist	This handy booklet provides key information on how to contact your legislator through mail, phone or email, how to access current legislation information, and how the legislative process operates. It includes all the tips you need to become an educated constituent and participate in and influence the legislative process	200

POP-UP FACT:
 The LWW of Saratoga Springs offers First Vote guides to all high school seniors in their county. During the 2015 election cycle, they distributed over 1,700 brochures to 13 schools. Way to reach out to new voters!

As part of this research grant, local Leagues who attended an education session were provided with voter guides, promotional materials and stipends to assist in costs related to voter registration drives and tracking the number of registrants during this grant. Based on the data from the first year of the grant, it was determined that both Leagues and organ donor organizations had better results when working together on drives; local Leagues are now encouraged to coordinate drives with the organ donor organizations whenever possible.

Local Leagues who are participating in this joint effort as of June 30, 2016 are:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| LWW of Albany County | LWW of Larchmont/Mamaroneck | LWW of Schenectady County |
| LWW of Broome and Tioga Co. | LWW of Long Beach | LWW of Smithtown |
| LWW of Buffalo/Niagara | LWW of Mid-Hudson Region | LWW of Somers |
| LWW of Cazenovia | LWW of New Castle | LWW of Southwest Nassau |
| LWW of Cooperstown | LWW of New Rochelle | LWW of Syracuse Metro. |
| LWW of Cortland County | LWW of New York City | LWW of The Hamptons |
| LWW of East Nassau | LWW of Oneonta | LWW of the North Country |
| LWW of Geneva | LWW of Rochester Metro | LWW of Utica/Rome Metro. Area |
| LWW of Huntington | LWW of Saratoga County | Wayne County MAL Unit |



CITIZEN EDUCATION

Mission: To create awareness of issues at local, state and national levels and to inform citizens how they can have an impact.

BUILDING SKILLS FOR LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE

Advocacy Training Day

The 2016 Advocacy Training Day was held on May 10, 2016 in Albany. This year, members were not only briefed on lobbying League positions at the national, state, and local levels, but also made appointments to meet with their legislators and lobby on those positions. Attendees also had the opportunity to watch the Senate and Assembly in session.

Presenters included state League president, Dare Thompson, state League Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti, and state League issues specialists. Topics ranged from how to lobby to specifics of League positions on financing education, judicial issues, natural resources, transportation, healthcare, election law, ethics/campaign finance reform, and women's issues.

"As a relatively new member of the League of Women Voters, and with a lifelong passion for political policy and advocacy, I registered for the League's advocacy training day in Albany. I got to interview both my state legislators and found them informed, open, and diligent. The process of policymaking and passing legislation is truly remarkable. Knowing what the process is, and seeing it in action was an experience I found awe-inspiring, and one I will never forget. Thanks to the state League for all you do, and for allowing me to have shared in some of that work!"

– Teri Connaughton, LWV of Huntington, on attending Advocacy Training Day for the first time



Constitutional Convention

Every 20 years, New York voters are given the opportunity to vote for or against holding a state constitutional convention. In 2017 voters will once again be faced with this important ballot proposal and the League has already begun to work in conjunction with academic institutions and other good government groups to educate and empower voters.

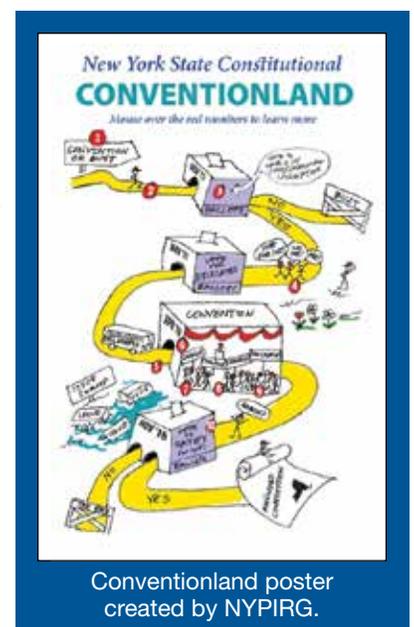
The League has partnered with the Rockefeller Institute, the Government Law Center at Albany Law School, and the Siena Research Institute, to implement a multiyear campaign to ensure that all of New York's voters have a clearer sense of what a Constitutional convention could achieve. The coalition has already held multiple educational forums throughout the state.

The first program focused on getting the media up to speed on the historical significance of constitutional conventions and the potential impact one might have in New York. A second forum highlighted the potential ethical reforms that could be achieved by amending the constitution. The most recent forum discussed how a convention would be organized and what aspects of the Constitution could be streamlined through a convention. Additional forums on various issues to be considered during a possible convention are being planned for later this year.

Internally, the League has begun creating its own educational materials and programs which it plans to release in the fall of 2016. The League also started educating its members by inviting constitutional scholars to speak at regional training workshops

in Saratoga, Buffalo, Syracuse, and New York City. Our members were delighted to hear from Gerald Benjamin (Associate Vice President for Regional Engagement and Director of the Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz), Christopher Bopst (Chief Legal and Financial Officer of Sam-Son Logistics, Inc. in Buffalo and co-author of numerous articles on state constitutional conventions), and Peter Galie (Professor Emeritus and Former Chairman of the Political Science Department at Canisius College) during the training sessions. The presentations are all posted on the state League website and provide members with a taste of what is to come in 2017.

If the ballot measure passes in 2017, the League will shift its focus to educating voters on potential issues that could arise if certain articles of the Constitution are amended.



Conventionland poster created by NYPIRG.

State League United Nations Day 2015

Over 100 League members and friends convened at the United Nations on December 3 for the League's annual Day at the UN. Attendees toured the newly renovated facilities, seeing, among other things, the updated Security Council Chambers, various gifted art pieces from member states, and the Human Rights wall. Lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room was beautiful and delicious as usual. Our briefings this year were on the topics of education and counter terrorism.

POP-UP FACT:

"Even before the United Nations was formally established; the League of Women Voters launched an unprecedented nationwide campaign to help build public understanding of...the United Nations...The League trained more than 5,000 speakers and distributed more than a million brochures during a six-month period. At the UN Charter Conference in 1945, the League was one of 42 nongovernmental organizations invited by President Truman to serve as consultants to the U.S. delegation. Since then, the League has maintained a presence at the United Nations through its UN Observer..." - from the LWVUS website, <http://lwv.org/content/united-nations>

La Neice Collins, speechwriter and communications adviser for the United Nations in New York City, spoke about the UN's effort to educate women and girls. She related techniques the UN uses to encourage families to allow their children, and, particularly, their daughters, to stay in school and discussed how that often changes many other areas of life in those communities.

Jean-Victor Nkolo discussed the UN's efforts in counter-terrorism. Mr. Nkolo has held managerial positions in 10 United Nations peacekeeping missions. Moreover, he has previously served as Spokesperson for two Presidents of the United Nations General

Assembly. He has also served as Spokesperson for the Security Council during some of the Council's missions outside New York. His frank discussion about how the UN's usual tactics in peacekeeping missions don't work with terrorist organizations was both scary and enlightening. He said the UN itself is still working on strategies to fight terrorism and that many of them revolve around ending poverty and inequality in war-torn or impoverished countries.



WE'D LIKE TO THANK OUR CO-SPONSORS FOR THE DAY.

They provide great support for the League and also encourage attendance by their own members and friends to enlarge the participation at the UN. Their members add greatly to our discussions at the UN.

- United Nations Department of Public Information
- Zonta International District 4 • Women's Bar Association of the State of NY • General Federation of Women's Clubs
- The National Council of Jewish Women



VOTER SERVICE SURVEY RESULTS FALL 2015

League members are tireless in their efforts to educate the public about issues and candidates in their communities. Each year our local Leagues host candidate forums for everything from library and school boards to Congressional seats. They hold education sessions on issues affecting their communities like gun control, "raise the age," and human trafficking that are not only publicized but also added to YouTube and other online platforms. They are dedicated to making sure voters have the information they need to make informed decisions in the voting booth.

LWVNYS sends an annual survey to our local Leagues regarding all of these activities. This year we received survey responses from 27 out of our 51 local Leagues. Here is what they reported for 2015:

FORUMS/DEBATES:

- 24 Leagues held candidate forums or debates
- 15 held them with other organizations
- Attendance ranged from 30-1,450 people at the forums
- 15 Leagues videotaped the events
- 19 Leagues had events covered by media
- 14 provided moderators or time keepers for other organizations

VOTER GUIDES:

- 45 Leagues used Vote411.org
- 3 Leagues published local voter guides

VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES:

- 22 Leagues held over 150 registration drives registering over 2,000 voters
- 9 Leagues attended naturalization ceremonies and distributed voter registration forms and brochures to new citizens

LWVNYS Education June 30, 2016 Foundation Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking Account	30,811
Building Reserve Fund	12,684
Savings Account	30,503
Centennial Endowment Fund	36,118
B. Bibby Endowment Fund	197,741
Reserve Fund	150,345
Prepaid Expenses/Insurance Exp.	3,852
Accounts Receivable	460
Total Current Assets	\$462,514

Fixed Assets

Building, Equipment, Furnishings, Software	240,539
Land	18,000
Accum Depreciation – Building, Eqmt, Furnishings, Software	(91,285)
Total Fixed Assets	\$167,254

Other Assets

Grants Management	102,791
Total Other Assets	\$102,791

TOTAL ASSETS **\$732,559**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Total Liabilities \$15,583

Equity

Temp Restricted Net Asset	
Grants Management	102,791
Total Temporary Restricted Net Asset	\$102,791
Permanently Restricted	
B. Bibby Endowment Fund	200,057
Centennial Endowment Fund	35,815
Total Permanently Restricted	235,873
Unrestricted Fund Balance	394,951
Net Income	(16,638)
Total Equity	\$716,976

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$732,559**

Income and Expenses 2015-2016

Income

Local League Support	290
Grant Income (local League)	88,175
Member Contributions	66,012
Board Donations	21,400
Community/Corporate Donations	32,081
Grant Income	1,500
Direct Mail Income	29,690
Other Income	31,431
Investment Income (Loss)	7,643

Total Income **\$278,222**

Unrealized gain/loss for investments not included

Expenses

Educational Programs	
Youth Programs (SIA)	40,436
Advocacy Education	38,739
Constitutional Convention	14,000
Voter Service Education	32,608
Other Education Programs	10,161
Total Educational Programs	\$135,944
Local League Educational Programs	
Grants to Local Leagues	72,339
Total Local League Educational Programs	\$72,339
Building Expenses	
Building, Equipment and Leases	6,844
Utilities	3,801
Maintenance and Upkeep	4,402
Insurance	2,899
Total Building Expenses	17,945
Administration	61,263
Professional Fees, Dues and Subscriptions	10,205
Development & Fundraising	17,164
Total Expenses	\$314,860

Use of Cash Reserves **\$20,000**

Net Income **-\$16,638**

The financial information presented above is unaudited and subject to adjustments and modifications during the auditing process.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

DONOR PROFILE: JOAN BOZER

"Why think small?!" This is a sentiment Joan Bozer often expresses. Whether it is in her work for the environment, her county, women's history, or the League, Joan is no stranger to making a big plan and then rolling up her sleeves and getting a job done. She thinks big and works hard for those things she values. Thankfully, the League is one of the organizations she believes in.

Joan is devoted to community service and is often called upon to rally support for causes in the Buffalo area and around the state. She served on the Erie County legislature for nine terms from 1978 to 1995. But before that, she was president of the LWW of Buffalo. Her experience as president for the LWW of Buffalo, as well as leadership in other community organizations, led to her interest in elective office.

In addition to her board service in Buffalo, Joan also served on the LWWNYS board. During her time on the state board, she chaired "Briefings on the Status of Human Rights for Women Around the World" at the United Nations and since that time, she has maintained her passionate support of the state League and its projects. She is a leadership donor to the state League and has opened her home to invite others to discuss League initiatives and, most importantly, to develop plans to combat voter apathy and increase voter turnout at the polls.

"I'm very alarmed by the low percentage of eligible voters that go to vote in New York. [Our state ranked 49th in voter turnout during the 2015 general election.] It is a sad state of affairs." She uses any platform she can to encourage voter participation

and continues to make leadership level gifts to the LWWNYS Education Foundation because **"the League is a powerful force for voter education. The more support we give to the state League, the more we can do to get people to the polls."**

Joan believes the League has so much potential to do good in New York State because our mission to make sure all people have their voices heard is powerful. "The League is an inspirational force advocating for New Yorkers to vote and to be educated on issues and candidates. We need to advocate more strongly than ever before to make sure we are visible and to increase voter understanding of what a privilege it is to decide on one's own government."

With the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in New York State coming up in 2017 and the 100th anniversary of the League in New York approaching in 2019, Joan hopes we can use these important anniversaries to gain even more visibility for the cause and reinvigorate New York citizens around participation in government. Knowing Joan, she will find a way to make sure this happens!



Sustaining Support – Recurring Donors

Recently, many donors have discovered that they can give more and have a greater impact on their charities if they make recurring, monthly gifts. League members have been no exception and currently our monthly giving circle for the Education Foundation has grown to include:

Virginia and Michael Adler
Sue Cypert
Georgia DeGregorio
Lauren Frank and Annette Miller
Linda Frank
Kate Jankowski
Myra Hiemstra⁺
Betty Ann and James King

Cheryl Kline
Arlene Makl
Doris Reed
Susan Schwarz
Clare Simeone
JoAnn Smith
Dare and Douglas Thompson
Janalyn Travis-Messer

⁺Deceased

"I am so proud to be able to be a sustainable donor to the LWWNYS Education Foundation. My monthly contribution is quite modest but over time adds up to much more than I would be able to contribute as a one-time donation. Being a monthly donor also makes me more diligent in paying attention to current LWWNYS educational endeavors throughout the state.

Never has there been a more crucial time to combat voter apathy than right now! The League offers factual, non-partisan information regarding issues, registration deadlines and other voting procedures necessary to voter participation. The League continues to be passionate about protecting voter rights and increasing voter accessibility. Voters TRUST League information. I believe that funding these efforts is critical and that's why I give monthly. Please join me in becoming a sustainable donor."

Betty Ann King ~ LWW North Country



For more information on making recurring gifts to the League, please contact Kate Jankowski, Communications and Development Director, at (518) 465-4162 or kate@lwwny.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. is pleased to acknowledge the following members and community partners whose philanthropy in the 2015-2016 fiscal year has supported our efforts. We thank them for being part of our community and making our success possible!

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IN MEMORIUM

Carol Coggeshall (1917 – 2016)



Carol Coggeshall is a woman remembered for her dedication to the environment and League leadership and she continued her staunch support even after she was gone. Earlier this year, when Carol passed away at the age of 98, the Education Foundation received a generous bequest from her estate.

Her son, Jonathan, recalls his mom being very active in the local League and remembers “what a vigorous, helpful group it was.” He shares the memory of delivering voter guides that many a child of the League recalls and says, “We didn’t always know exactly what our mom was doing with the League but we knew she worked hard and that it was the right thing to do.”

Carol’s work in the League is also remembered by many League members. Sandy Galef, NYS Assembly member and former local LWV president, says, “I so enjoyed being with Carol in LWV activity. She was always thorough in her presentations—mostly on environmental issues. I probably never knew more about water quality than when listening to Carol. She was our leader on these important issues for three decades—from the 1970s to the 1990s.”

Carol was born in Mount Kisco, NY and was a school teacher before marrying and raising a family with her husband, Jonathan Coggeshall, Sr. In the 1950s, when her family moved to Croton-on-Hudson, Carol began volunteering for the League of Women Voters of Briarcliff/Ossining/Cortland/Croton (LWV of BOCC) as well as the ASPCA, the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, Tea Town Reservation, and the Westchester County Soil and Water Board. As one former League member, Carolyn Cunningham, recalls, she was also a “fixture” on the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County Board of Directors for over a decade. Carolyn goes on to say, “Carol was an environmentalist through and through, and a good member of the board.”

Other members also recall her professional, thorough approach and dedication to the environment. Former LWV of BOCC member, Katharine McLoughlin, says, “I remember Carol as a devoted Leaguer, believing in the organization’s goals, work, members, and process. She was a calm presence, accomplishing objectives without fanfare. She was no ‘glory hound’ but an integral member and professional in all ways.”

Carol’s legacy of environmentalism and quiet, passionate, professional support will be long remembered, and naming the League in her will means that the League will continue to be there for the next generation of members who, like Carol, look simply to do good in their communities.

Every effort was made to make this report as accurate as possible. Should you notice an error or omission in our donor list, please contact the LWVNY office at (518) 465-4162 for a correction.

1919 SOCIETY

The 1919 Society was created in celebration of the state League's 90th birthday to ensure that the League is able to maintain its vibrant reputation in the 21st century. Remembering a charity in your will or other estate plans is a powerful way to ensure that your values survive you and that the League remains robust for the next generation. In addition to providing a wonderful legacy for the community, bequests decrease the size of your taxable estate.

Members of the 1919 Society as of June 30, 2016:

Barbara Bartoletti
Helen Bailey Bayly
Laura Ladd Bierman
Paula Blum
Anne Burton
Carol Coggeshall+
Lori Dawson and Michael LaBelle*
Natacha Dykman+
Elizabeth Hubbard
JoAnn Jacobson*
Katharine W. Lloyd, MD*
Evelyn Stock
Dorothy Westhafer

*new member during 2015/2016
+Deceased

If you are interested in finding out more about making gifts of stock, gifts from your IRA, or naming the League in your will, please contact Kate Jankowski, Communications and Development Director, at kate@lwny.org or (518) 465-4162.

Planning for the Future

Donor Profile –1919 Society: **Katharine W. Lloyd, MD**

Dr. Katharine Lloyd has many proud family traditions. Among these, she is the third of four generations of physicians that span her family. And she is a second generation League member. Kathy, as she is usually known, remembers that her mother was a longtime League member in Cazenovia, beginning in the McCarthy era. She recalls her mother putting on her "League outfit" and going out to League activities, "presumably because she believed the world needed sane citizens."

Kathy joined the League in 1987 when health issues prevented her from continuing her career. She had young children and still wanted to be involved outside the home. The League, as it does for so many, gave her a place to continue to learn and grow personally while making an impact on her community and making new friends.

She has long been passionate about social justice issues – particularly in the field of criminal justice – so she joined her League's Social Service Committee and soon became chair. This gave her a board position and she grew to enjoy the League process of consensus. "Someone brought up the issue of raising dues and I thought they were not that high, so we should. But another board member pointed out the importance of keeping the League accessible, and after discussion, we decided not to increase dues. I remember feeling fully satisfied with the decision, even though I had originally disagreed. **That's the consensus process, and that's a really important part of the way the League works.**"

In the early 1990s, Kathy and her husband, Bill Guiney, a pathologist, attended a meeting of the Public Defenders Association being held in Cooperstown. There she heard from the head of the Association that he thought that as a nation we would soon realize we were imprisoning far too many people. This inspired Kathy to propose a League study on Alternatives to Incarceration. At the next state convention, members agreed this was an issue to study if a chair could be found. As is often the case when you have a good idea, Kathy herself was appointed as chair.

"As chair of the state study, I worked hard. It was really good for my self-esteem because I had given up my career, which had been a large part of my identity." Kathy relates how her experience in the League gave her confidence in other situations. She later served on the board of Planned Parenthood in her region and recalls going to discuss several issues including marriage equality with Jim Seward, her state senator. She says she felt confident in this situation, having been trained through her League work.

Several years ago, when she and her, now late, husband were revising their wills, Kathy created a bequest for the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation as well as her local League in Cooperstown. She edits her will as her family's situation changes but she always designates part of her estate for the League. **"This is a cause that has been dear to me 'from my mother's knee.' I chose to give to the state League because**

I treasure the League in general, and the local and state levels are where I can make a difference."

In creating a bequest for the League, Kathy has provided a vote of confidence in the future. When asked about her hopes for that future, she talked about how when she joined her local League, it was made up of a mix of people her age and those who had been active in starting the League in her community. "It gives you a sense of what has gone before you to create this wonderful resource and a feeling of being a part of generations of people who believe in the League. I hope the League can continue to be active in criminal and social justice issues and protecting the environment. We need to keep lobbying our legislators and make sure local Leagues have the training and support they need to do the same."

Thanks to Kathy's advance planning and generosity, the state League will continue to provide that same sense of family, education, and support she cherishes for generations to come.



Katharine W. Lloyd, MD on a recent trip to Chaco Canyon, NM

THE LEAGUE MATTERS CAMPAIGN MAKES A DIFFERENCE

In July 2015 the state League's Education Foundation celebrated an unprecedented fundraising success. Thanks to more than 300 donors, we raised just over \$409,000 in a three year period. Dubbed "The League Matters Campaign," this successful fundraising effort was all about creating financial stability and growth opportunities for the state League and thus providing more support and resources to our local Leagues across New York.

As a result of the Campaign, the state League was able to add a critically-needed, full-time staff position. Last summer, **Jennifer Wilson** became the Program and Policy Director for the State League. She serves as our in-house lobbyist and policy advisor. Before coming to the League she worked as Deputy Regional Director for the Albany office of Senator Charles Schumer. Jennifer has a Masters of Public Administration from the Rockefeller School of Public Affairs and Policy, with a specialization in Public Management and Policy Analytics.

This full-time position doubled the full-time staff at the state League office to two. We also have three part-time staff members. **With Jennifer in the office, the state League can do more for local Leagues.** In addition to her advocacy work, Jennifer coordinates the state League's Vote411.org online voter guide, setting up state level candidate and issues information, helping local League Vote411.org volunteers, and serving as liaison between the national office and our local Leagues. She also develops programs on current issues like the possibility of a constitutional convention and increasing voter participation. These fully developed programs are shared with local Leagues so their volunteers can easily present information to voters locally.

Of the many projects Jennifer has worked on so far, she says, "It has been thrilling for me to see my projects come to life and be used by League members to educate voters. Even a task as simple as updating the Voter Guide for the new election cycle is satisfying because I know that these brochures will be used by our members at voter registration drives."

This summer, Jennifer is creating our constitutional convention education materials. The possibility of a constitutional convention in New York gives voters many decisions and, thanks to Jennifer, the League will be positioned to provide all the details. Jennifer says, "Working on this educational program has allowed me to put my grad school research skills to work and learn something new. I will provide local Leagues with a program that is both informative and fun. Before coming to the League, like most New Yorkers I had no idea what a constitutional convention entails. Now I consider myself a novice-expert on the subject and can't wait to share what I have learned with local Leagues and, through them, with the voters who need the information."

Jennifer says that before working here, she only knew about the League's work on candidate debates and voter education and had "no idea" how much more was involved. Now that she has worked with League members around the state, Jennifer reports, "League members are incredibly politically savvy, intensely concerned with government affairs in New York, and genuinely care about making sure we have an informed electorate."

Thanks to the League Matters Campaign donors, the state League now has more resources to keep our local Leagues strong and reassure our members that they are not alone in the fight to educate voters. Because of these donors, the state League provides programs, speakers, and empowered volunteers and leaders to help combat voter apathy and engage people in their government.



Looking Forward – Centennials Abound

The years from 2017-2020 contain many opportunities for us to celebrate both women's history and League history. 2017 will mark the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in New York State, 2019 is the 100th anniversary of the League in New York State, and 2020 has the 100th anniversaries of both the 19th amendment and the national League.

In preparation for all of these centennials, the state League has formed a 100th Anniversary Steering Committee. Over 35 people have joined this Committee to date. It is co-chaired by **Aimee Allaud**, LWV of Albany County, **Barbara Bartoletti**, LWV of Albany County, and **Barbara Thomas**, LWV of Saratoga County. Additionally, an Honorary Committee includes: **Shirley Eberly**, LWV of the Rochester Metropolitan Area; **Emily and Eugene Grant**, LWV of Larchmont/Mamaroneck; **Libby Hubbard**, LWV of Huntington; **Ruth Hinerfeld**, LWV of Larchmont/Mamaroneck; and **Evelyn Stock**, LWV of Scarsdale.

This large Committee is further subdivided into four subcommittees. They are:

Events Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Joan Johnson, LWV of the Syracuse Metro Area
Barbara Thomas, LWV of Saratoga County

Educational Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Mary Berry, LWV of Albany County
Lisa Scott, LWV of Smithtown

Fundraising Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Jane Park, LWV of Broome and Tioga Counties
Sally Robinson, LWV of the City of New York

Historical Research Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Phoebe Bender, LWV of Albany County
Martha Kennedy, LWV of Albany County



100th Anniversary Dates

- Nov. 6, 2017** 100th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage in NYS
- Nov. 19, 2019** 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of NYS
- Feb. 14, 2020** 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the US
- Aug. 26, 2020** 100th Anniversary of the official certification of the ratification of the 19th amendment by the U.S. Secretary of State

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Smithtown
Somers
Southwest Nassau County
St. Lawrence MAL (Members at Large)
Steuben County
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Tompkins County
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Wayne County MAL (Members at Large)
White Plains

Inter-League Organizations
Nassau County ILO
Suffolk County ILO
Westchester County ILO

“The League shall go forward fearlessly until it knows for itself that its job is done.”
– Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters

