

2016-2017

# ANNUAL REPORT



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION FOUNDATION



# 2016-2017 LWNYS EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Retiring Election Law Specialist Aimee Allaud,  
LWNYS President Dare Thompson, LWNYS Board Member Susan Wilson,  
and Retiring LWNYS Legislative Director Barbara Bartoletti  
at Biennial State Convention in June 2017.

## **The League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation**

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Ph. 518-465-4162 • Fx. 518-465-0812  
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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.

"...If New York wins in 1917 the backbone of the opposition will be largely bent if not broken" predicted Carrie Chapman Catt one hundred years ago, and she was right. The win for women's suffrage in New York was a huge shot in the arm to the whole national effort, and suffrage for all American women followed even faster than she expected.

New York's gifts to the suffrage victory in 1920 are so numerous and inspiring, it has been an especially great privilege for me to be New York's League of Women Voters president right now.

NY's own Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the primary mover behind the Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls in 1848, and the remarkable hard work and vision of Susan B Anthony and Matilda Joslyn Gage, whose historic homes you can visit in Rochester and the Syracuse area, add so much more to our state's acclaim.

The matrilineal Haudenosaunee Confederacy in northern New York, which Gage in particular appreciated, meant that citizens here were exposed to a long-lived tradition of powerful Clan Mothers and could see the strength that women leaders provided to their communities.

And oh, Carrie Catt, the League's founder, how very proud she has made us. Recognized in her day as the organizing genius behind the ultimate victory, she has been less touted over the years than Stanton and Anthony, but centennials give us a chance to dig deep and set records straight. We applaud her work to win the vote and also to establish the League, an organization that began with the mission to help women vote and quickly grew into an institution that benefits all voters.

Of course a closer look at the seven decades of struggle also reveals less admirable aspects of the movement - most regrettably the racism, but also the factions and personal politics that could bog efforts down. It was a very human struggle and it teaches us even more today when we're not afraid to look at it honestly.

As we continue today to provide all voters with the information they need to vote with ease and confidence, we are strengthened by the rich and complex story of women fighting fiercely to get what should have been theirs as soon as the American Revolution was won. We look forward to all the stories that will emerge across the country as we hold hands with other states and the LWWUS in preparing for the national centennial in 2020.

As we continue to educate ourselves and other voters about all the issues of today, we remain inspired by our foremothers' - and their male supporters' - deep commitment to an American democracy that is so much better for including all voices and all viewpoints. How hard they must have had to listen. And how patient they must have been to remain committed even when they were

told over and over again that this was not their place, and even when the incivility was even greater than today's. As we prepare for another round of elections, another UN Day, another group of eager and rambunctious Students Inside Albany, two more state studies, we are so grateful for all they endured and made possible.

We hope you enjoy this annual report's look-back on the past year and the civilized and civilizing work we were doing in the midst of an election season that was unlike any other in our lifetimes. We hope you appreciate the stories about some of our special supporters. A big thank you to all of you across the state who feel deeply how important the League continues to be as a force for accountable, transparent government that serves all. We think that Elizabeth, Susan, Matilda, Carrie and all the suffragists would tell you "Right on!"

Sincerely,



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 2017

The 2017 Students Inside Albany Conference had 60 attendees representing 40 local Leagues, Member-at-Large (MAL) Units and Inter-League Organizations (ILO). The students came from all over New York State from Long Island to Buffalo and Plattsburgh to Binghamton. They ranged from freshmen to seniors in high school. They were energetic and enthusiastic to learn about New York State government.

On Sunday evening, Barbara Bartoletti, LWNYS Legislative Director, and Jennifer Wilson, LWNYS Director of Program and Policy, presented information on how New York State Government works. They explained the roles of the various branches of New York State government and the differences between the state government and the national and local levels of government.

On Monday, the students toured the state Capitol and heard about whose faces are on those engraved stones and the secret of the fireplaces in the Senate Chambers. Barbara Bartoletti and Jennifer Wilson then provided them with the do's and don'ts of lobbying the legislators – how to approach them, make your arguments and be persuasive. Assemblymember John McDonald (District

#108) allowed the students to perform role playing and lobby him about an issue.

In the afternoon, the students were directed to find their Assemblymember's offices and shadow their legislator. All of the students were escorted onto the Assembly floor and introduced on the floor of the Chamber. They viewed the legislators at their desks and the Chamber in session.

On Tuesday, Jasmine Gripper, Education Advocate from the Alliance for Quality Education, presented information to the students on education issues and the methods they use to advocate for these issues. The topic was of particular interest to the students who asked many questions on financing education, Common Core and APPR. Caitlin O'Brien, Environmental Health

Associate of Environmental Advocates of New York, spoke as well, about their lobbying efforts to ensure clean air and water, especially in low income areas.

On the way to the Capitol that afternoon, the students had a tour of the Chambers of the Court of Appeals and heard about the different levels of the judiciary in New York State from Susan Dautel, Assistant Deputy Clerk of the Court. A few students were also selected to sit in the judges' seats and imitate the court's beginning of a session.

The students shadowed their Senator on Tuesday and again were escorted to the floor to watch the session.

After dinner on Tuesday, the students heard from Samuel Fein, Albany County Legislator



of District 6. He spoke about his experience as a young person (mid-20s) running for office in Albany County.

On Wednesday morning, Jennifer Wilson 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. The students were also presented individually with a certificate for attendance at the Conference. A few students noted that they had been offered internships in the legislators' offices for the summer.

Just for fun, the students also went bowling one night at a local bowling alley that provided laser lights, disco lights, black lights, and runway lights combined with the latest music videos on a giant screen. The group also enjoyed a boat cruise on the Hudson River.

### Schedule for Students Inside Albany 2017

#### SUNDAY, MAY 21

##### How Does New York State Government Work?

Jennifer Wilson, Director of Program and Policy, LWWNYS  
Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, League of Women Voters of New York State (LWWNYS)

#### MONDAY, MAY 22

##### Tips for Being a Successful Citizen Lobbyist

Jennifer Wilson, Director of Program and Policy, LWWNYS  
Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, LWWNYS

##### Tour of NYS Capitol

Legislators and Lobbyists  
Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, LWWNYS

With Special Guest:  
Assemblymember John McDonald, Democrat, NYS Assembly District 108, Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties

##### SHADOW ASSEMBLY

Hudson River Cruise

#### TUESDAY, MAY 24

##### Political Activism: How Citizens Make a Difference

Jasmine Gripper, Legislative Coordinator & Statewide Education Advocate, Alliance for Quality Education  
Caitlin O'Brien, Environmental Health Associate, Environmental Advocates of New York

##### Role of the Court in Policy Making

Susan Dautel, Esq., NYS Court of Appeals

##### SHADOW SENATE

##### Running for Office

Samuel Fein, Democrat, Albany County Legislator, District 6

##### Bowling

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

##### How Does NYS Government Work? Final Question and Answer Period

Jennifer Wilson, Director of Program and Policy, LWWNYS

##### Recognition Ceremony

## SIA – A Student's Story

### Katelin Penner Sponsored by the LWV of the Rivertowns

Currently a senior at Hastings High School, Katelin came to SIA with a long history of being involved at her high school. She served as president of her school's quiz bowl team which travelled to the national competition in June, is co-president of the Model UN team, and is secretary of her grade in the Student Council, and is involved in both music and theater programs.

Even with all of that, she says, "For me, Students Inside Albany literally changed my worldview. I was lucky enough to be referred to SIA by my wonderful American History teacher, Mr. Greg Smith, and immediately knew I wanted to take part in the program. As a relatively politically literate person, I entered Students Inside Albany believing I had a full grasp on the way government operated at the state, federal, and local level. Like so many other residents of New York State, I actually did not know how much impact the New York State Legislature has on creating policy."

Katelin was also impressed by her experience shadowing legislators, "I think everyone has their own perception of how they think government operates, but shadowing actual state legislators really helped me see what policymaking looked like...Both legislators were incredibly willing to speak with me, and answered all of my questions. This gave me a much better idea of what working as a legislator would really be like."

While she says the skills she learned at SIA have ultimately helped in all of her leadership positions, she feels that they have most directly influenced her participation in local civic engagement. She says, "I realized how many of my classmates were not informed about state and local government, and thus were unlikely to vote in non-presidential elections. Knowing that New York State already had one of the lowest voter participation rates, I felt it was important to share the information



I had garnered while at SIA. So, I started a club called Future Voters of America that tries to get students involved in politics at the local, state, and federal level. The club also works to expand civic education, and encourage young people to get out and vote!" The club has already run voter registration events for their high school and is in the process of planning a lesson on New York State government for high school students. "Without my experience in Albany, I would not have the knowledge needed to run a club like this."

SIA fueled Katelin's interest in politics so much that she has also worked as an intern for current State Senator George Latimer's campaign for Westchester County Executive for the past few months. She says, "My experience working for Senator Latimer has been completely different from my experience shadowing State Legislators in Albany, but I now feel like I have a more comprehensive understanding of the political process, from election to policy-making."

Katelin plans to pursue a political science major when I get to college next year. She says that even though she planned to study political science, her experience in Albany energized her and cemented her belief that this is the right path for her future. She says, "After college, I hope to pursue a career in either civil rights law or state politics. Maybe I will even have SIA students shadowing me one day!"

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

Since the last election in the fall of 2016, there has been an upsurge in the number of people wanting to get registered and informed before they vote. More people are contacting the League than ever to find out how they can make their voice heard and the League remains a leader in voter service and education. In addition to answering voter questions, presenting candidate forums, and providing youth education, we also provide unbiased voter guides about candidates and issues on the ballot.

## THE ELECTRONIC VOTER GUIDE – VOTE411.ORG

During the 2016 presidential election, our online voter guide, Vote411.org, had more visits than ever before. By the Friday before election, every state already had more sessions than in all of 2012. On Election Day itself, the voter guide section had over 400,000 sessions across the country. It was a 280% increase in the number of sessions on Election Day in 2012, the last presidential election year. All in all, Vote411.org had nearly 6 million sessions from January 1st to November 8th. That represents an over 279% increase in sessions nationwide.

In New York State, our percentage increase in sessions mirrored those nationwide. We had a total of 176,974 visits with 143,822 of those being new users. In 2012, we only had 52,212 sessions throughout the state.

Our electronic voter guide is made possible by the persistence and dedication of our 40 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 voter's addresses to create an electronic ballot containing information about all the races in their 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. Training on the technology was also provided to all local Leagues using the online software.

## NEW YORK STATE FAIR

In August, 2016, the State League organized a voter registration table at the New York State Fair in Syracuse. With over 35 volunteers from 6 local Leagues, we accomplished the following:

- Total Voter Registration Forms: 485
- Total Absentee Applications: 77
- Total Organ Donor Half Sheets: 17

The League not only registered voters, but answered many questions about the registration process, absentee balloting, and voting procedures in New York State. It was a fun, and effective, way to ensure voters were educated for the 2016 election. We thank our partner New York Alliance for Donation who provided financial assistance for this Fair participation.



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 ([lwvny.org](http://lwvny.org)).

Publication	Description	2016/2017 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	22,000
Voter Guide, Part II	Includes biographical information on the Presidential and US Senate candidates, as well as their responses to League questions on issues	18,000
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.	16,500
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      3) Individuals with Disabilities 2) Homeless Individuals    4) Individuals with Mental Health Disabilities	12,000
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	2,000

## Organ Donor Partnership

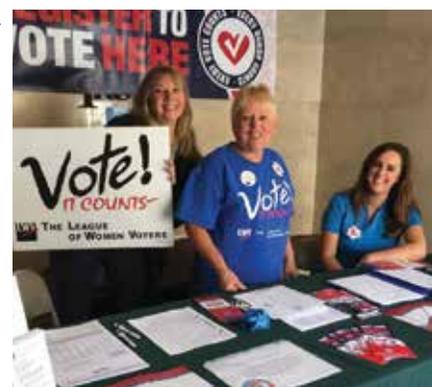
For the third year, the state League joined in an innovative partnership with the New York Alliance for Donation (NYAD) to increase voter registrations and organ donor registrations. NYAD's mission is to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in New York State through collaborative advocacy, education, 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.

As part of this research grant, local Leagues were provided with voter guides, promotional materials and stipends to assist in costs related to voter registration drives and tracking the numbers during this grant. From September 2016 to August 2017, 20% of the voter registration forms collected by our local Leagues included a registration as an organ donor. 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, 2017 are:

LWV of Albany County	LWV of New Castle	LWV of Smithtown
LWV of Broome and Tioga Co.	LWV of New Rochelle	LWV of Somers
LWV of Buffalo/Niagara	LWV of New York City	LWV of Southwest Nassau
LWV of Cazenovia	LWV of North Country	LWV of St. Lawrence MAL Unit
LWV of Cooperstown	LWV of Northeast Westchester	LWV of Syracuse Metro.
LWV of Cortland County	LWV of Oneonta	LWV of The Hamptons
LWV of East Nassau	LWV of Port Washington	LWV of the North Country
LWV of Geneva	LWV of Putnam County	LWV of Tompkins County
LWV of Huntington	LWV of Rochester Metro	LWV of Utica/Rome Metro. Area
LWV of Larchmont/Mamaroneck	LWV of Saratoga County	LWV of Wayne County MAL Unit
LWV of Long Beach	LWV of Schenectady County	LWV of White Plains



# 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

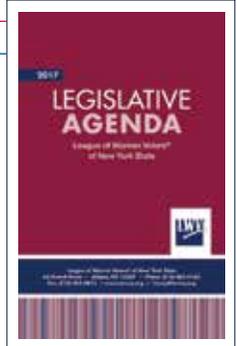
### Advocacy Training Day 2017

This year's Advocacy Training Day was a major success! Members from all over the state came to learn how to lobby their legislators on voting reforms, health care, women's issues, and environmental conservation. This year we kicked off the day with a press conference on the need for comprehensive voting reforms. Several legislators attended and spoke at the event, including Senate Democratic Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assemblyman Brian Kavanaugh, stressing the need for reform. Many media outlets attended and we received a significant amount of attention on social media. After the press conference, members received advocacy training and heard about active legislation from our issues specialists. Attendees also had the opportunity to watch the Senate and Assembly in session. Overall it was a very fun day and we were delighted to see so many eager League members learn about current legislative issues.

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

### Legislative Agenda

Printed annually, this pamphlet is a tool our members can use to understand the League's legislative focus each year and find contact information for NYS elected officials. It is distributed to all members prior to the legislative session and used as a training tool at our Advocacy Day. This publication highlights the issues on which the League advocates, including election law reform, healthcare, campaign finance and other good government reforms, judicial issues, natural resources, financing education, transportation and women's issues. This publication also includes a listing of our issue specialists and the contact information for legislative leaders in New York State. Over 5,000 copies of this brochure were requested by local Leagues statewide last year.



### State League United Nations Day 2016

Over 90 League members and friends convened at the United Nations on Thursday, November 17th, for the annual League's Day at the UN. Attendees toured the newly renovated facilities, seeing 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. The briefing in the afternoon on the topics of the Refugee Crisis and Anti-terrorism were presented by two speakers: Bela Hovy, Head of the Migration Section within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations, and Mattias Sundholm, Communications Adviser to the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

Bela Hovy heads the Migration Section within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations in New York. In that capacity, he oversees the analysis of global migration trends and the preparation of migration reports for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. His team coordinates inputs from the UN system, organizes expert meetings and holds regional trainings on migration. Mr. Hovy spoke about international migration, the global phenomenon that is growing in scope, complexity and impact. He spoke about migration as both a cause and effect of broader development processes and its effect on our ever globalizing world.

Mattias Sundholm is currently working as Communications Adviser to the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), advising the Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of CTED. Previous to this, Sundholm helped establish two new UN offices; one under the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and one under



## Constitutional Convention

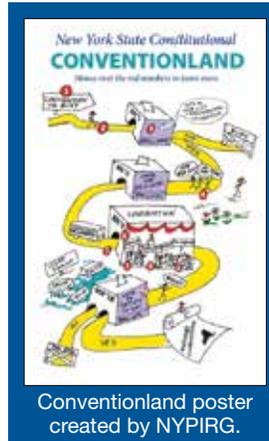
Every 20 years, New York voters are given the opportunity to vote for or against holding a state constitutional convention. In November 2017 voters will once again be faced with this important ballot proposal. During 2016-17, the state League engaged in a number of educational efforts to increase awareness and inform the public about this ballot proposal.

With partners, the Rockefeller Institute, the Government Law Center at Albany Law School, and the Siena Research Institute, a multiyear campaign was designed to hold multiple educational forums throughout the state. The League collaborated with these partners on presentations and outreach efforts, especially to educate the media and increase visibility on the ballot proposal.

The state League also drafted and published its own briefing paper and a Powerpoint presentation on the process and issues surrounding a constitutional convention. The materials were distributed to all local Leagues, training was provided to leaders on conference

calls, and local Leagues held community forums to present the information. We also shared a list of potential speakers whom local Leagues could contact for their forums. Over 30 League forums were held statewide during Winter 2017. A page was established on the state website on which the materials were posted, and also many other articles, pro or con, were shared with the public.

In the next year the League will continue its efforts to educate voters on the importance of the constitutional convention question. 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.



the Department of Public Information. In addition to being Communications Adviser to the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Sundholm from 2010 to 2013 served as Special Adviser on Communications and Advocacy to the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Mr. Sundholm spoke to our group about the current actions the UN is taking to mitigate terrorism globally. He explained the UN's Counter-Terrorism Committee and how this Committee is addressing the growing issue of terrorism.

Rosalee Keech, LWVUS's UN Observer, also spoke to our group about her role as UN observer. She serves on the UN's NGO Working Group on Girls and as co-chair for its task force to prevent violence against women and girls. Her focus at the UN is to promote the democratic process and the prevention of violence. Rosalee provided comments for participants on how the League is directly involved in UN operations. Rosalee is a member of the League of Women Voters of the Montville Area (New Jersey) and is a past member on the Board of Directors of LWVUS.

### 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



## VOTER SERVICE SURVEY RESULTS FALL 2016

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.

LWVNY sends an annual survey to our local Leagues regarding all of these activities. This year we received survey responses from 24 out of our 51 local Leagues. Here is what they reported for 2016:

### FORUMS/DEBATES:

- All 24 Leagues held candidate forums or debates
- 9 held them with other organizations
- Attendance ranged from 12-250 people at the forums
- 19 Leagues had events covered by media
- 8 provided moderators or time keepers for other organizations

### VOTER GUIDES:

- 40 Leagues published races in Vote411.org
- 3 Leagues published local voter guides

### VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES:

- 23 Leagues held voter registration drives
- Each League organized 2-29 drives registering 20-1,223 voters

# LWVNYS Education June 30, 2017

## Foundation Balance Sheet

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Checking Account	64,055
Building Reserve Fund	12,684
Savings Account	3,161
Centennial Endowment Fund	37,227
B. Bibby Endowment Fund	207,593
Reserve Fund	146,714
Prepaid Expenses/Insurance Exp.	4,576
Accounts Receivable	11,734
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$487,744</b>

#### Fixed Assets

Building, Equipment, Furnishings, Software	240,539
Land	18,000
Accum Depreciation – Building, Eqmt, Furnishings, Software	(107,439)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$151,100</b>

#### Other Assets

Grants Management	110,530
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$110,530</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$749,375**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Total Liabilities	\$32,808
<b>Equity</b>	
Temp Restricted Net Asset	
Grants Management	110,530
<b>Total Temporary Restricted Net Asset</b>	<b>\$110,530</b>
Permanently Restricted	
B. Bibby Endowment Fund	207,593
Centennial Endowment Fund	37,227
<b>Total Permanently Restricted</b>	<b>244,821</b>
Unrestricted Fund Balance	364,556
Net Income	(3,340)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$716,567</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$749,375</b>

### Expenses

Educational Programs	
Youth Programs (SIA)	33,686
Advocacy Education	33,395
Constitutional Convention Education	13,081
Voter Service Education	22,342
History Projects	21,602
Other Education Programs	3,734
<b>Total Educational Programs</b>	<b>\$127,841</b>
Local League Educational Programs	
Grants to Local Leagues	75,004
<b>Total Local League Educational Programs</b>	<b>\$75,004</b>
Building Expenses	
Building, Equipment and Leases	4,378
Utilities	3,886
Maintenance and Upkeep	3,312
Insurance	1,602
<b>Total Building Expenses</b>	<b>13,178</b>
Total Administration	58,259
Total Dues and Subscriptions	7,078
Total Development & Fundraising	17,117
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$298,477</b>
<b>Use of Cash Reserves</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$3,340</b>

### Income and Expenses 2016-2017

#### Income

Grant Income (local League)	71,925
Member Contributions	100,889
Board Donations	11,610
Community/Corporate Donations	28,921
Grant Income	2,500
Direct Mail Income	42,161
Other Income	26,339
Investment Income (Loss)	10,793
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$295,137</b>

*Unrealized gain/loss for investments not included*

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

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

## DONOR PROFILE: NANCY ROSENTHAL

**N**ancy Rosenthal is a busy woman. She helps run a family business and serves as a League leader in more ways than one. She is president of her local League – LWV of Southwest Nassau – and of her County’s Inter-League Organization (ILO), LWV of Nassau County. As with many League members, she originally got involved after someone asked her to join at a general meeting. She reports that at that first meeting she was impressed with what she learned and the people she met. She says, “The people were bright and engaging. They were willing to speak their mind and you could have a conversation with many different viewpoints represented.”

While Nancy also enjoys bicycling and gardening, she does not volunteer with other organizations. She is “all League, all the time.” She caught the bug at her first national League convention. She says that at first she didn’t know what to expect when her local League selected her to attend. Within an hour of arriving, she felt inspired and honored to be with such incredible people from around the country.

In addition to all her work for the local and county Leagues, a few years ago Nancy became a leadership donor to the state League Education Foundation. She had been working hard on a redistricting study and her dad surprised her by sending in a gift in her honor. This inspired her to think about giving to the state League in a big way. She was also inspired to give to the state League when they started the Vote411.org online voter guide. After that first gift, she says she received a call from the state League executive director, Laura Bierman. She recalls how great that felt and that it showed her how much of a difference her gift would make to the organization.

After several years as a leadership donor to the state League, she says she is still surprised when she receives that thank you call. She so appreciates knowing that her giving will make the change she wants to see in the world. From her father she learned of the value of education and giving to the LWVNY

Education Foundation helps her support education but also support the social change and civil discourse that she is so passionate about. She says, “Traditional educational institutions will always have donors but the smaller non-profits can be left hurting. When the opportunity came to step up and help out, it was a no-brainer.”

Nancy also said that she continues to be inspired by the state League Board leadership and staff. The practical part of Nancy knows that having a strong voice at the Capitol is key to League success and that without a strong staff that has the resources they need, the League would not be what it needs to be for the people of New York.

Clearly, Nancy leads by example and the League is lucky to have her volunteer leadership as well as her passionate support. Thanks to her, and other donors like her, the League will remain a vibrant organization with the power to change the future.



### Sustaining Support – Recurring Donors

Many donors find it easier to set up monthly or quarterly gifts to the EF. These gifts are made with a credit card and happen automatically on the schedule that works best for our donors. Sustaining support like this means the EF can continue to provide meaningful resources for New York State voters. Thanks to our 2016/2017 EF recurring donors:

**Toni Coffee**  
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**Susan Schwarz**  
**Clare Simeone**  
**JoAnn Smith**  
**Dare and Douglas Thompson**  
**Janalyn Travis-Messer**  
**Susan Wilson**

*“What a privilege it is to be a part of the troop train that is the League of Women Voters. Like so many of you, I have worked in the trenches for a while now and found such satisfaction in learning every day how government works and figuring out how to reach out to our communities to affect positive change, to wake up our voters, and to provide them with the information they need to make wise choices. But best of all is working with my fellow Leaguers – friends for life – smart, fun, dependable and creative. It would give me much pleasure to be able to bestow hefty dollars on the League (only in my imagination, I’m afraid) but I can and have signed up to be a monthly sustainer to the LWV Education Foundation. The work of the State League is essential to all we do locally. **Becoming a monthly sustainer makes it easy to support the League we love. I hope you too will sign up today.**”*



Susan Schwarz - LWV Rivertowns

For more information on making recurring gifts to the League, please contact Celeste Steinke, Communications and Development Coordinator, at (518) 465-4162 or celeste@lwvny.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 2016 – 2017 fiscal year has supported our efforts. Thank you for being part of our community and making our success possible!

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LOYAL DONOR

Joan Silbersher



Joan Silbersher has been making gifts to the League of Women Voters of New York State every single year for 20 years in a row. She is a resident of Pound Ridge, New York and she has loyally contributed to make sure the League she believes in remains active and vital in educating voters.

Joan's diligence is supporting the League is commendable. Not many people can say they've donated to even their favorite charity for 20 years without missing one. But then, Joan is known for her leadership and community action.

Not only was she a member of the League in Pound Ridge and served on their Board but she was also a member of their Business Association and is best known in her community as the proprietor of the antiques shop, Antiques & Tools of Business & Kitchen. In that role, she introduced a holiday antiques market, donating proceeds to beautify the center of the Pound Ridge business area.

Known for being vocal about participating in our democracy, as one friend said, "Joan... encouraged everyone to be participating voices in American democracy, both on the local and national levels." It is because of this belief that Joan supports the League every year. She is upset about our state's low voter turnout and believes the League is vital in improving the education of and participation by voters.

As with most League donors, Joan has an active and busy life. She had a career as a gym teacher; was an eastern ranking tennis player and, in 1965, founded the Pound Ridge Tennis Club; has been a real estate agent; published a local shopper newspaper. As a business owner, her customers included many celebrities like Martha Stewart, Eartha Kitt, Ralph Lauren, and Tom Brokaw (to name just a few) and she had an episode of the HBO show "Girls" filmed in her shop.

Joan is also a cancer survivor, a mother and grandmother, and continually advocates for voter education and participation. We are so glad she includes loyal League donor in that long list of accomplishments.

- |   |   |                                  |   |
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+Deceased

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 LWWNYS office at (518) 465-4162 for a correction.

### Donor Profile

## Lori Dawson and Michael LaBelle

## 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, 2017:

**Barbara Bartoletti**

**Helen Bayly**

**Laura Ladd Bierman**

**Paula Blum**

**Anne Burton**

**Carol Coggeshall  
(deceased)**

**Lori Dawson and  
Michael LaBelle**

**Natacha Dykman  
(deceased)**

**Elizabeth Hubbard**

**JoAnn Jacobson  
(deceased)**

**Katharine W. Lloyd, MD**

**Evelyn Stock**

**Dorothy Westhafer**

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 Celeste Steinke, Communications and Development Coordinator, at [celeste@lwvny.org](mailto:celeste@lwvny.org) or (518) 465-4162.

Lori Dawson took a long road to the League. Unlike many members, she did not have a mother or family member that had been involved. In fact, she served on a study committee years before joining. Her Quaker meeting was studying drug laws and she heard about a League study regarding the same topic so she called and joined the committee. Three years later, after 9/11, she got involved again because of her work with the Saratoga Peace Alliance. Finally, in 2003, she joined after reconnecting with long-time Saratoga League president, Barb Thomas.

In typical League fashion, she joined the local League board a year after becoming a member and served for seven years. But as far back as she can remember, Lori has been passionately concerned about social justice and wanting things to be "right and fair." In fact, despite being a couple for 20 years, Lori and Michael did not marry until the marriage equality act – something Lori lobbied for as a League member – was passed in 2011.

In addition to marriage equality, Lori has worked with her fellow League members to pass the National Popular Vote Compact and says that the League's process of study, consensus, and action is an important part of her membership.

Several years ago, when she and Michael were preparing for a vacation across the ocean, they decided they should have a will "just in case." They spent time discussing what they valued and researched charities that had good track records of action in



those areas. They chose an environmental charity, a non-profit that works for peace, and, in the civic engagement category chose the League. Lori reports, "Once we finally decided to make our will, it was so easy to include our charities." They chose the state League because, "they can do more for legislative change and they support all the local Leagues in New York."

Despite being staunch believers in the League, Lori still worries about all the work still to be done to achieve justice and equality. She says she hopes the League can remain relevant and adapt to the changes that have occurred in our society. She says, "The League is uniquely qualified to promote civil discourse and advocate for good government. If we can become more nimble while maintaining our measured, thorough, and thoughtful approach to studying issues, we will remain a power to be reckoned with." By supporting the League with their membership, volunteerism, and planned bequest, Lori and Michael are doing their part to make this vision a reality.



**LWV of NYC  
at the Women's  
March in  
January, 2017**

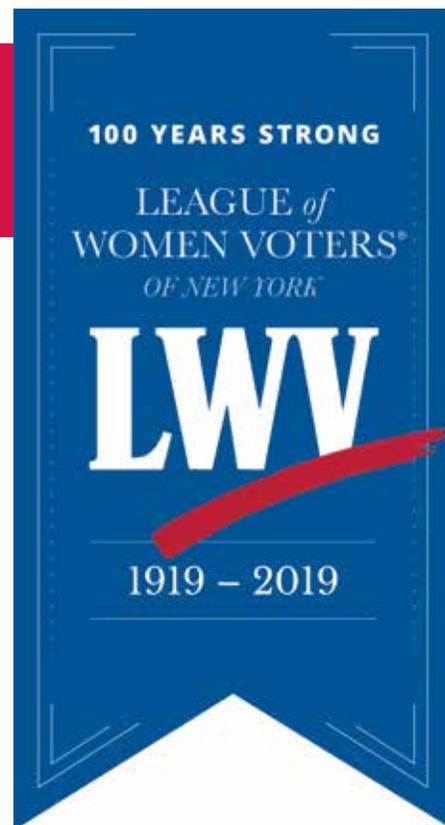
# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE *Centennial Celebrations*

In 1917, after a long struggle, women won the right to vote in New York State. In honor of this centennial, the state League and many local Leagues organized events, educational forums, and celebrations during this year. In April, LWWNYS Education Foundation co-sponsored a conference with SUNY New Paltz on women's suffrage history and current women's issues, held at the FDR Museum and Library and the SUNY New Paltz campus. Presentations included national speakers on former state League leader Eleanor Roosevelt, authors on feminism, and academicians on women and gender studies. The League also organized a lunch and tour of Val-Kill, the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, for League members. LWWUS Executive Director, Wylecia Wiggs Harris, addressed the members and joined us for the lunch and tour.

As a pre-state convention option, the League organized a tour of the highlights of Seneca Falls, including the Elizabeth Cady Stanton home, the Women's Hall of Fame, and the M'Clintock home. At the National Women's Historic Park, attendees viewed the exhibits and Melinda Grube, portraying Elizabeth Cady Stanton, presented a

powerful presentation in the Wesleyan Chapel about her own motivation for putting forward the Declaration of Sentiments in 1848. The attendees were hosted for dinner at the historic Gould Hotel as well. During the state Convention, Sally Roesch Wagner, Executive Director of the Matilda Joselyn Gage Foundation, was the featured luncheon speaker, presenting a program on looking beyond the 1917 vote to dialogue about the issues of equality raised by our suffrage foremothers, which continue to cause cultural dissent today.

Local Leagues have also had programs celebrating this centennial, including portrayals of historic figures, such as Saratoga's presentation of Susan B. Anthony in May, and League member and author, Antonia Petrash speaking about suffragists from Long Island. The state League posted a list of resources of books, films, speakers, and more on the state website to help local Leagues with celebrations and programs.



*Members of LWW of Albany County in Seneca Falls*



*Wylecia Wiggs Harris, CEO, LWWUS seated with members from LWW of Saratoga 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

## 2016/2017 LOCAL LEAGUES IN NEW YORK STATE

Albany County  
Brookhaven  
Broome/Tioga Counties  
Buffalo/Niagara  
Cazenovia  
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Chautauqua County  
Chemung County  
Cooperstown  
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Eastern Putnam County  
Geneva  
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Harrison  
Huntington  
Larchmont/Mamaroneck  
Long Beach  
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New Castle  
New Rochelle  
New York City  
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Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties  
North East Westchester  
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Rensselaer County  
Rivertowns  
Rochester Metro  
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Suffolk County ILO  
Westchester County ILO

**“The vote has been costly...Prize it...understand what it means...”**

*– Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters*

