

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NEW YORK STATE**

59th Biennial Convention



STRIVING
to create a
stronger, more
INCLUSIVE
DEMOCRACY

June 7-12, 2021
Virtual on Zoom Platform

CALL TO CONVENTION

To: Local League Presidents
From: Suzanne Stassevitch

It is my great pleasure to extend a first call to the 59th Convention of the League of Women Voters of New York State to be held June 7-12, 2021. All meetings during convention shall be conducted on virtual platforms. The official business of the convention will be held in two plenary sessions:

Friday, June 11, 2021, 5:30 pm: Opening Plenary Session I
Saturday, June 12, 2021, 1:00 pm: Plenary Session II

Caucuses and workshops will be held June 7- 10, 5:30 – 9:00 P.M., and Saturday June 12, 9:30 – 12 noon.

During the convention delegates from each of the local Leagues, ILO's, and MAL'S will be asked to make the important decisions that will guide the LWVNYS through the next biennium including the election of officers and directors, the adoption of a budget, bylaws amendments, and our state program for 2021-2023.

Presidents, I hope you will encourage every member of your League to register and attend all or part of the convention. We have some really great workshops and caucuses in the planning and our virtual convention should be much more accessible to more members.

Requirements for your delegation are below.

Members may participate in all convention events, workshops and caucuses. However, during the Plenary Sessions, members who are not Delegates may not vote or participate in the debates. Members who are not delegates may observe the plenary sessions and are encouraged to do so.

Workshops and caucuses will be available for all registered Visitors/Observers & Delegates, to:

- Learn more about the proposed 2021-2022 budget, the proposed changes to the bylaws, and engage in conversation with candidates
- Caucuses will explore proposed resolutions and concurrences.
- Members can benefit from opportunities to learn how to maintain nonpartisanship in hyper-partisan times through our messaging, expand our work in virtual spaces to promote our mission and plan virtual events, learn how to how to navigate social media and promote democracy,
- Attend a special workshop led by a trainer on diversity, equity and inclusion to learn how our own personal biases affect our actions and what we can do about them to make the League more diverse and inclusive.
- Hear Dr. Deborah Turner, President of LWVUS, speak about the power and the future of our grassroots organization.
- Attend caucuses addressing racial justice, climate change, redistricting and election reforms.

According to Article VIII, Section 3 of the LWVNYS Bylaws, the convention shall be composed of the following voting delegates:

Sec. 3. Convention:

- a. Composition.** The convention shall consist of the delegates of the local Leagues, ILOs and MAL units, as provided in this article, and the members of the board, each of whom shall be entitled to one vote.

- b. Qualifications of Delegates and Voting.** All delegates shall be voting members of the League. Each delegate representing a local League, ILO, or MAL unit, or duly authorized proxy as provided in subsection f, shall be a member in good standing of that local League, ILO or MAL Unit and shall be entitled to vote only if that League, ILO or MAL unit has met its per-member-payment responsibilities. The LWVNYS board may make an exception in the case of proven hardship. No delegate shall be entitled to more than one vote, and absentee shall not be permitted. Final determination of a delegate’s qualifications or credentials shall be made by the convention.
- c. Representation at convention** the members of the LWVUS who are organized into recognized local Leagues, ILOs, and MAL units in the state of New York shall be entitled to voting representation at the convention as follows: each local League shall be represented by one delegate. In addition to that delegate, each local League is entitled to one delegate for the first 40 members. Leagues having more than 40 members shall be entitled to one delegate for each additional 40 members or major fraction thereof. Membership numbers will be determined by the number indicated in the official LWVUS membership count report for the year of the convention. Each recognized ILO shall be entitled to one voting delegate. Each MAL unit shall be entitled to one voting delegate.
- d. Quorum.** A quorum for the transaction of business at convention shall be participation by one tenth of the total number of authorized delegates.
- e. Authorization for Action.** The convention shall consider and authorize a program for action; shall elect officers, directors, the chair and two members of the nominating committee; shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year; and shall transact such other business as may come before it..
- f. Proxies.** Every proxy must be in writing and signed by the president of the local League or ILO or the chair of the MAL Unit. Every proxy shall be revocable at the pleasure of the person executing it, unless otherwise provided by law. The proxy can contain such conditions as determined by the giver of the proxy. For the purpose of representing another League, all proxies shall be delivered to the presiding officer.

PROXIES: *If a league is authorized to send one or more delegates to the convention, and is unable to do so, they may authorize another person eligible to vote at convention to represent them by giving that person a "proxy". The League giving the Proxy may give a specific proxy to direct the Proxy holder how to vote on particular matters or a general proxy.*

For example, league A is authorized to send two delegates, but only one member of that league is able to attend. The president of league A learns that league B has more members eager to attend the convention than available delegate slots. League A appoints a member of League B to represent them at convention.

If your League is going to have a proxy holder, please contact the state League office.

Delegates representing their own local League are uninstructed and are expected to use their own judgment in reaching decisions based on convention discussion. Delegates are committing their local Leagues to program study and action as well as financial obligation. Your League should be well represented!! A list of each local League and the number of voting delegates to which your League is entitled is included in the email with this Registration Kit.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Monday, June 7

5:30-7:30 pm DEI training (Speaker TBD)

Tuesday, June 8-Thursday, June 10,

5:30-9:00 pm Workshops and Caucuses (see tentative list on page 6)

Friday, June 11

5:30 pm Opening Plenary Session

6:00 pm Speaker: Dr. Deborah Turner, LWVUS President

6:30-9:00 pm Plenary Session (continues)

Saturday, June 8

9:30 – 10:30 Workshops and Caucuses

10:45 -12:00 Workshops and Caucuses

1:00 - 5:00 Plenary Session

CONVENTION CHECKLIST

- Select your local delegates. A list of each local League and the number of voting delegates to which your League is entitled is included in the email with the Registration Kit.
- ALL members may register to attend workshops and caucuses or observe plenary sessions.
- Only registered DELEGATES may participate in plenary sessions and vote.
- Register prior to May 1 and receive an "early bird" special price!
- **Register online at:** https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/sZpfeEihvqiA-AOCUoRKMq **OR**
- **Mail Convention Registration Form to State League office by June 1, 2021.**
- Consider holding an information session to showcase a program or activity of your local League or a caucus to promote a study or issue of interest to you or your League

FEATURED SPEAKER
Friday, June 11, 6:00 pm



Dr. Deborah Turner
LWVUS President

Deborah Turner, MD, JD, serves as the 20th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). She was elected board president at the 54th National Convention of the League of Women Voters in June of 2020 and will serve in this position until June 2022.

Dr. Turner joined Des Moines Metropolitan League in 2010 and became president in 2011 when the League was at risk of disbanding. She served in that role until 2015 helping revitalize membership and focus the board leadership. At the same time, she also served on the LWV Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming co-president in 2015. In her dual roles with state and local Leagues, Deborah has provided leadership to strengthen relationships between local leagues and the state Board.

Turner was elected to the League's national board of directors in 2016 where she served on the Finance committee, Governance Committee, and chaired the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. As chair of the DEI Committee, Deborah and her colleagues focused on organizational culture changes to the League's mission work, emphasizing not only racial equity but also intergenerational dynamics, socioeconomic differences, gender identity, and interpersonal engagement.

Dr. Turner received her BS from Iowa State University and her MD from University of Iowa where she completed her Residency in OB-Gyn. She completed her fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Institute in Houston Texas. She practiced gynecologic oncology for 35 years, enhancing university programs at the University of Nebraska, University of Iowa, and the Medical College of Wisconsin teaching residents and students. She also served the private sector bringing her specialty to Genesis Medical Center in Davenport, IA, Mercy Cancer Center in Mason City, IA, and Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. In July 2015 she left active practice to become Vice President of International Programs Medical Programs of The Outreach Program. She participated in twelve medical missions to Tanzania since 2011 and worked with Singida's Medical Center, Outreach's Children's Feeding Centers, and Rotary International. She received her JD from Drake University in 2007. She has served as Associate Medical Director of Planned Parenthood of North Central States since 2016.

Turner was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2013 and received the Gertrude Rush Award from the National Bar Association in 2015. She was awarded the Louise Noun Visionary Women of the year award from Young Women's Resource Center Des Moines in 2018. Her most treasured award is a certificate from the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Care. She lives in Nebraska and has two grown children – a son and a niece.

WORKSHOP AND TRAINING SPEAKERS

Monday, June 7, 5:30-7:30 pm

DEI Speaker

Tuesday, June 8 through Thursday, June 10

Tentative list of workshops and caucuses (days and times TBD):

Virtual Candidate Events
Local Leagues and
Technology/Social Media
Open Meetings Laws and FOIA
Financing Education
Local Election Reforms
Ranked Choice Voting
Redistricting
Acquiring the ERA
Transitioning to Clean Energy
Climate Change
Detecting Fake News
Social Media and Democracy
NYYCCI - Youth program
How to Work and Stay Nonpartisan

*Stand Up, Speak Out: The Personal
Politics of Women's Rights*
Club Express
Intersection of Environmental Impacts
and Social Justice
NYS Rural Affairs Issues
Healthcare Through a DEI Lens
Women of Power in NYS
Changes in Our Election Administration
Systems (BOEs)
Proposed Climate Change Emergency
Resolution
Proposed Concurrence with LWV CA on
Criminal Justice
GOTV: Building Effective Programs

Saturday, June 12, 9:30 am -12:00 noon

Tentative Workshops:

Proposed Bylaws Amendments
Proposed LWV 2021- 2022 Budget
Meet the Candidates: 2021-2023 Nominating Slate
Proposed Program Planning Recommendations
Proposed Climate Change Emergency Resolution
Proposed Concurrence with LWV CA on Criminal Justice

REGISTRATION INFORMATION *for Delegates, Visitors and Observers*

The method of determining the number of delegates to which your local League is entitled is described in **"Call to Convention"** in this packet. A list of each local League and the number of voting delegates to which your League is entitled is included in the email with this Registration Kit. **If you have more members interested in attending Convention as delegates than the number allotted to your local League, members may have the opportunity to attend Convention representing another local league.** Please contact Laura Ladd Bierman at Laura@lwny.org or call the state League office (518-465-4162) for more information. You may also send as many nonvoting delegates (visitors) as you would like.

FEE SCHEDULE

Convention

Delegate (receive voting privilege) **OR**
Visitor/Observer (no voting privileges but may attend all workshops and observe plenary sessions)..... \$75

Early Bird Special (register prior to May 1, 2021).....\$50

Special Offer.....\$100

Registration as Delegate, Visitor or Observer PLUS
Receive in mail copies of:

*A Force to Reckon With: A Centennial History of the League of Women Voters of NYS AND
Forces to Reckon With: A Collection of Histories of Local Leagues in NYS*



CONVENTION REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY SUBSTITUTION

If there is someone else within your League who can attend the convention in your place, his/her name can be substituted for yours at any time with no penalty. Simply send the new attendee's name, address, phone, and email address to LWVNYS via email or fax with a note as to who he/she is replacing.

CANCELLATION - Whether or not you receive a refund of either the entire fee or a portion of the fee depends on when you cancel.

- **FULL REFUNDS** (minus \$10 processing fee) will be issued if you cancel 10 business days or more prior to the Convention.
- **PARTIAL REFUNDS** a refund for half (50%) of the registration fee will be issued if you cancel within 3 to 10 business days prior to Convention.
- **NO REFUNDS** will be issued if you cancel 3 or fewer business days prior to Convention.

REGISTRATION FORM

Register online at:

https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/sZpfeEihvqiA-AOCUoRKMQ

OR Return completed form to State office

Local League: _____ Amount _____

___ Delegate ___ Visitor Name: _____

Email: _____

___ Delegate ___ Visitor Name: _____

Email: _____

___ Delegate ___ Visitor Name: _____

Email: _____

___ Delegate ___ Visitor Name: _____

Email: _____

___ Delegate ___ Visitor Name: _____

Email: _____

Use additional sheets for more Delegates or Visitors

TOTAL _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION PAYMENT

_____ Send check payable to LWVNYS to LWVNYS 62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207

OR

_____ Charge my: MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp Date: ____ / ____ Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____

Zip Code: _____ Total Payment Amount: _____

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE
June 1, 2021
Early Bird Special
price before
May 1, 2021
FAX TO: 518-465-0812
OR MAIL TO:
LWVNYS
62 GRAND STREET
ALBANY, NY 12207**