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State Board Updates **January 2023**

The state League office has moved! Our new address is:

The Blake, 1 Steuben Place

Albany, NY 12207

(same phone, emails, but no fax anymore)

(mail to old address is being forwarded so no worries about anything already sent)

Local League To Do's (email: lwvny@lwvny.org or fax 518-465-0812)

- Update LWVUS database for members who are “active” or “inactive” **by Jan 31**
- Submit data tracking form to LWVNYS **by Feb. 10** (and the 10th of each month); questions attached in word document but must be completed online at:
<https://forms.gle/jvfv1kFwbGC8QDsX7>
- Submit your local League’s Legislative Priorities **by Feb. 1** using online form:
<https://forms.gle/vTUnscsE1E67DeS68>.
- Schedule a meeting of your members to discuss and submit the program planning packet by March 1.
- DEI Assessment Survey: Begin planning how to incorporate the DEI Assessment Survey into your Board business to derive a consensus and submit it by April 1st.

Events Calendar

- June 2-4, 2023 LWVNYS Convention, Albany

President’s Report, Judie Gorenstein, judieL728@aol.com

As we start a new year 2023, I have to say how proud I am to be president of the LWVNY. This year has only begun, but we have already successfully closed on our building, received unexpected donations, held an outstanding Legislative Hot Topics webinar where over 100 attendees learned more about how we adopt and takes action on issues, as well as hearing from each of our issue specialist. Thanks to our staff, the specialist, and also the LWV of Albany initiated this program. This is an excellent example of how LWVNYS and local Leagues work together.

In addition on January 19th, we held our presidents’ zoom meeting; Past, Present and Future. There was brief look back to successes in 2022 as well as goals not achieved. It is always important to acknowledge our success and strengths. Success begets success. It is also important to look at the weaknesses so we can make changes and overcome. Successes included presidents’ zoom meetings, presidents’ google group, and 100% response to voter service survey. However, only 20 to 25 Leagues have responded to other surveys and data collection. Although there have been a lot of surveys and Leagues at times may feel overwhelmed, the data is needed and this is area where Leagues can do better.

In the fall, LWVNYS was pleased to provide pass through grants for GOTV projects but some Leagues that were awarded these have not followed through on either implementation or reporting. Those who did were acknowledged but the importance of all Leagues doing so was stressed. This is an area where Leagues can do better. Leagues who have had successful programs or new ideas as always were encouraged to share. Susan Ferris president of LWV of Northeast Westchester had notified us of receiving a grant from LWVUS. Leagues were asked to indicate in chat if they had received grants and if for youth or criminal justices. Nine Leagues indicated they had and there may be more. In the future, we will be sharing more information on all the projects our Leagues have done, so if you have not informed LWVNY that you received such a grant please do so.

Deb Brodheim, LWV of NYC co-president, shared their successful Constitutional Day events and provided information for others to use in future. Kathy Meany president of LWV Westchester ILO discussed plans to start new a MAL Unit in NW Westchester County. This is particularly important because although LWV has increased power and visibility and made a difference, our number of members and Leagues have not grown.

We need to do better, but how? This year, LWVNYS is implementing a new initiative using a regional approach to League communication and collaboration. Leagues and MAL Units have been divided into six regions with a member of the state Local League Support committee assigned to each. A list of the regions with the liaisons was presented during the zoom. The objective is to create these smaller regional groups to share experiences and issues and to HELP each other with ideas, programs and practices to resolve issues that one or all have encountered. The liaisons have already or will be contacting the presidents of their Leagues in the next couple of weeks to solicit topics they would like addressed and then will schedule the zoom meetings for their regions. We are hopeful that this new initiative will be helpful to strengthen and grow our Leagues and will be evaluating the process as we move forward.

The presidents' zoom meeting ended with Laura discussing future opportunities and plans for Feb 14th and the upcoming LWVNYS convention. Feb 14, 2023 will be the 103rd anniversary of the LWVUS. LWVUS has called for a Day of Action. They have provided webinars and also a toolkit of what Leagues can do. LWVNYS is encouraging our Leagues who have not yet initiated anything special to organize a table at local colleges to provide advocacy information to students and information on the Equal Rights Amendment that passed both houses in NY on January 24. LWVNYS will provide materials and stickers to those Leagues who do. Seven Leagues have already notified us, but if your League has planned to and not contacted us, please do. Also remember to post on social media and send LWVNYS photos of whatever you do. Let's be visible on February 14th and begin plans for LWVNYS Convention in June. Hope to see many of you there!

This year as in past, it is important we all work together!

State Office

LWVUS Data Tracking

The state League is so pleased to report that 24 local Leagues submitted responses to the monthly data tracking form for activities in December. And, we are again astounded by the results from just 24 local Leagues:

- 64 educational events/rallies/forums were held
- 147 events were held focusing on the mechanics of voting (requirements, procedures, etc)

- Over 780 individuals were engaged in League work in-person
- Over 935 individuals were engaged in League work virtually
- 46 other organizations partnered with Leagues to do the work

Keep up the great work – these numbers are from just December’s activities which is usually a slower month and see how much you all accomplished! Be sure to complete the form for your January activities **by Feb. 10** online at: <https://forms.gle/jvfv1kFwbGC8QDsX7>. And, let’s see if we can get more Leagues and even more data to show our tremendous impact in our communities!



LWVNYS Convention is Coming!

The LWVNYS Biennial Convention will be held on **June 2-4, 2023** at the Crowne Plaza Albany – Desmond Hotel (yes, it’ll be an in-person Convention).

We have started to make plans for the Convention and your local League should, too. The Registration Kit will be emailed in late February so start thinking about who might represent your League.

If you have any specific topics that you would like to see for **workshops**, email laura@lwny.org your ideas.

If you have any suggested **amendments to the League’s bylaws** (<https://lwny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Bylaws-as-Amended-June-2021-Convention.pdf>), email laura@lwny.org.

If you have any suggestions for **officers or members of the state League’s board of directors**, email Kate Jankowski, Nominating Committee Chair, at kwilllower@hotmail.com. You can nominate yourself or someone else. The Committee will be considering potential nominees and reaching out to people in January.

If you have ideas for **new positions, updates to positions**, etc, make sure that your local League is discussing this and will submit the League’s response by March 1. (see more in Advocacy below)

Issues and Advocacy, Sally Robinson, VP for Issues and Advocacy, sally.s.robinson@gmail.com, and Erica Smitka, LWVNYS Deputy Director, Erica@lwny.org

Legislative Agenda

The state League has again created a Legislative Agenda booklet in which the current legislative issues to be considered by the state League are described. These items will be the ones monitored and on which we will take action during the upcoming legislative session. The state League shipped copies of this booklet to all local Leagues at no charge. Please use the booklet when meeting with elected officials, at membership meetings, and to educate potential members about the League’s positions.

Legislative Priorities

As the legislative session approaches, the State League is beginning to meet with coalition partners to make plans for our advocacy efforts in the coming year. Recommendations made by local Leagues will once again be used to help determine the amount of resources given to each of the issues and on what issues members are most interested.

Each local League should complete this form based on discussions at membership meetings and with their local Board. Please complete the online form **by February 1, 2023 - the link to the form is:** <https://forms.gle/vTUnscsE1E67DeS68> .

State of the State

The Governor gave her annual State of the State on Tuesday of this past week and we were watching from the overflow room in the Legislative Office Building.

Governor Hochul started off by reviewing several accomplishments from the past year before discussing her priorities for the upcoming year. Largely, the focus of the speech was what we expected. Below are a few of the highlights. [Click here to read her speech in full.](#)

- Introduction of the New York Housing Compact, which will build over 800,000 new homes over the next decade.
- A plan to fix New York State's continuum of mental health care
- Several public safety initiatives
- A plan to index NY's minimum wage to inflation
- A cap-and-invest program to combat climate change
- Making child care more affordable and accessible

It was the first time in many years that neither democracy nor ethics was mentioned in a State of the State speech.

Senate Voting Rights/Election Reform Package

As they have for the past four years, the Senate introduced a package of bills last Monday to address voting rights and election reform. Read more about the package [here](#). The League was quoted in a press release that went out about the package- [click here](#) to read the press release.

All of the bills introduced were passed in the Senate with several receiving bi-partisan support. A huge win was the passage of S657, which establishes the New York voting and elections database and institute to maintain a statewide database of voting and election data. This bill is the companion bill to the John R. Lewis New York Voting Rights Act, which the League supported last session. There has not been much movement on any of the bills in the Assembly.

NYS Election Commissioners Association Conference

This week the State League attended the NYS Election Commissioners Association Conference in Albany. We spent multiple days with commissioners from across the state, attending sessions led by the State Board of Elections and county commissioners.

The League also staffed a table with several of our coalition partners where we were able to distribute information on election security and talk with county commissioners about how we could best support their efforts to reach voters across the state.

NYS Equal Rights Amendment Taskforce

The week of January 9th, the State League launched the statewide LWV ERA Taskforce to work on second passage of the New York State Equal Rights Amendment. We have representation from 30 Leagues and 36 members. We expect to add more delegates as we get closer to a vote in 2024.

The bill passed for a second time in both the Senate and Assembly on January 24th—two days after the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The taskforce will now launch a statewide voter education campaign before voters have a chance to vote on the bill in November of 2024. If voters approve the amendment it would prohibit discrimination against groups who have been historically targeted, including those with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, immigrants, women, and pregnant people. It would also codify abortion access in our state constitution. If your League has not given us the name of a delegate, please email that name and contact info to Erica@lwvny.org.

Legislative Hot Topics Webinar

On Saturday, January 21st the LWVNYS and the Albany County League held a Legislative Hot Topics webinar for all members. We had 8 issue specialists and issue committee chairs on the call in addition to the State Issues Committee. The presentation focused on how NYS does advocacy and how members can get involved. Each issue specialists/committee co-chair had time to talk about their committee's priority bills and which legislative issues will have the most traction this session. [Click here](#) for a recording of the session and [click here](#) for the PowerPoint, both of which have been posted on our homepage.

10 Day Voter Registration Bill Signed

Governor Hochul signed the 10-day voter registration bill into law on December 23, 2023. The law took effect January 1, 2023. Chapter amendments to the law recently passed in the Senate (S1327/A972) and are in committee in the Assembly. The chapter amendments make changes to current election law to account for the new 10-day registration deadline. We are looking more closely at the chapter amendments to ensure there are no unexpected implications. In order for a 10-day registration deadline to be enacted effectively implementing legislation must be passed and signed into law this session. The most popular implementation bill is one introduced by Senator Myrie last session (S1552 (2021-2022 session)). This bill would allow for affidavit voting at poll sites on the first day of early voting and require local BOEs to confirm eligibility on the back end.

Program Planning for State Convention 2023

As it does every year in which there is a state convention, the State League sent all local Leagues information on how to help develop a State Program, i.e. suggesting of new issues to be selected for concentrated study, which positions need to be updated, and whether any existing positions should be dropped for 2023-2025. This discussion can be done at a Board meeting but we urge Leagues to seek as much member input as possible in developing their response. The response is due to the State League **by March 1** in order to be considered by state Board and then at Convention. The packet and form to return are attached to this email.

Voter Services, Nancy Rosenthal, VP for Voter Services, **nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com**

10 Day Registration Signed by Governor

A huge win for voters in NY State as Governor Hochul just signed the 10-day Voter Registration bill (S2951A/A8858A) which will reduce the voter registration deadline to the constitutional minimum of ten days! This bill went into effect January 1, 2023 but requires implementing legislation and more – look below at Advocacy report for more information!

February 14th — Valentine’s Day — of each year is the final day for voters to change their party registration before a primary election (this June). Voters wishing to change their party affiliation, as with any new voter registration or address change, can use the online voter registration form available through the state Department of Motor Vehicles New York at <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application> or can fill out and mail a new voter registration form New York State Voter Registration Form available on the state League website or the state Board of Elections website. Remind members and the voting public of this important annual date to change party affiliation!

League Toolkits

It’s always a great opportunity as the voting season approaches to dust off and review the toolkits available on the state League website. They really do make for good bedtime reading and for planning the upcoming voting season for League events!

- [A Toolkit for GOTV: How to Successfully Get Out the Vote](#)
- [A Toolkit for Voter Registration Drives: How to Organize a Successful Voter Registration Drive](#)
- [A Toolkit for Candidate Events: How to Hold a Successful Candidate Event](#)

Vote 411

We have renewed our Vote 411 license so local leagues and your League’s designated vote411 person can start getting their logins again from Milly (milly@lwvny.org) or Megan Brown (MBrown@lwv.org). We are planning for a workshop on Vote411 at Convention.

Also available for training - join the LWVUS VOTE411 staff to learn about the VOTE411 website and how you can participate in the voter guide program. Webinars are every other Tuesday at 7pm ET. Find the full schedule by [clicking her on the League Management Site](#).

Voter Service Survey

We had a 100% return of the Voter Service Surveys from our local Leagues! Thanks to all for this valuable information we will be using as we plan upcoming voting efforts and look for additional grants and opportunities. Last month’s SBU provided an overview of the responses; below you will find the numeric responses to questions asked in the survey. If anyone would like the actual spreadsheet with all the data and enter text responses, contact me and I will send you the extensive spreadsheet! Much thanks to the office staff, the Voter Service Committee, and especially Jane Colvin and Sheila Bernson for the compilation of this data!

VOTER REGISTRATION

1. How many in person voter registration drives did you conduct?
 - a. Number of drives: 481
 - b. Number of voters registered: 4566
 - c. Number of forms taken: 5493
 - d. How many volunteers participated in voter registration drives? 976
 - f. How many drives were in or targeted under-resourced communities? 213
 - g. How many times did you partner with other groups to do a drive? 334
2. How many high school voter registration drives did you do?
 - a. How many schools? 68
 - b. Number of voters registered: 3110

- c. Number of forms taken: 1513
- 4. How many naturalization ceremony registration drives did you do?
 - a. Number of voters registered: 48-1591
 - b. Number of forms taken: 1653
- 6. How many voter registration trainings for League members did you have? 47
- 7. How many voter registration trainings for other organizations or groups did you have? 25

CANDIDATE EVENTS

- 1. How many in-person candidate forums did you organize? 41
- 2. How many virtual candidate forums did you organize? 53
- 3. How many hybrid candidate forums did you organize? 11
- 4. How many volunteers participated in candidate events? 328
- 5. Did you provide translations? If so, how and in what languages? 33 No 6 Yes
- 6. What is the total number views for all candidate forums in person and virtually during and virtually after event?
 - In-person: 2724
 - Virtually after the event: 24,856
- 7. How many events did you need to cancel due to the No Empty Chair policy (requirement needing more than one candidate for a race)? 17
- 8. Did you need to cancel for any other reason? If so, how many and why? 33 No 6 Yes
- 9. How many candidate forums did you co-sponsor with other leagues, or other organizations? 5

GET OUT THE VOTE

- 1. What activities/materials did you use to Get Out the Vote? Please indicate the number distributed in the space provided.

Flyers 14238	Digital Signs 65
Workshops 33	Lawn Signs 237
Postcards 66439	Voter Guide II Data in English and Spanish
Doorhangers 7255	English 13045
PSAs 46	Spanish 1043
Posters 593	Other Bengali Mandarin
Videos 47	Palm Cards 15515
- 2. Did you use social media/digital engagement in your GOTV efforts?
 - a. How many posts related to GOTV did you post on your website? 7 No 31 Yes
 - 1 No Answer for using social media; 142 posts related to GOTV
 - b. How many Instagram posts? 344
 - i. How many likes did your posts get? 4002
 - c. How many Facebook posts? 591
 - i. How many likes did your posts get? 2360
 - d. How many Twitter posts? 61
 - i. How many likes did your posts get? 419
- 4. How many volunteers participated in GOTV? 561

VOTE411

- 3. How many races did you post to Vote 411 this year? 227

OTHER

1. Does your League meet with the County BOE before and/or after the election? If so, please describe?

14 No/No Answer 25 Yes

2. How many new volunteers or members did your League recruit through all activities? 221

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Regina Tillman, VP for DEI, rmt370@gmail.com, and Crystal Joseph, DEI Task Force Co-Chair, campus@lwnynyc.org

Your LWNYS DEI Task Force met in December and is preparing to have a busy year in 2023, beginning with:

- DEI Self-Assessment Survey: To be issued shortly to all NYS League Chapters and for individual member inputs. It was completed initially back in 2020 by those NYS Leagues that had representation on the Task Force and by the State League Board. And since then, the LWNYS Task Force have provided numerous methods to learn about DEI in support of LWVUS's stance that DEI is as important to uphold - in principle and practice - as is our concept of nonpartisanship.

When issued formally, the Assessment Survey will need to be completed by April 1st by all our local league chapters through a consensus of their Board of Directors. Members not on Boards are invited to submit individual surveys. You will be notified immediately when the final version of the DEI Assessment is ready for your input and submission.

- Education: Is a nonending endeavor as we transform into a “continuous learning” organization. Our bimonthly virtual DEI Drop-In Sessions will and we continue to share articles, information, and impressions on our FaceBook Group which is open to all NYS League members interested in DEI: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lwnynsdei>

We are also actively seeking funding in support of:

- Upon popular demand, to secure a second round with educator Kimberlee Williams (“Dear White Woman” Workshop, October 2022) to cover in-depth the tools for better communications in the effort to cross the racial divide.

And there is more but these items are on the top of our agenda! We appreciate all those that followed our efforts and participated in our educational offerings through 2022! Let us “keep hope alive” that every step we take collectively - and individually - toward appreciating our differences makes the world a better place!

2023 Students Inside Albany Conference: Laura Ladd Bierman, Laura@lwnyn.org

The 2023 Students Inside Albany Conference will be held May 21-24 at the Hampton Inn in downtown Albany. All local Leagues have been informed as to how many students they can send. Cancellations do happen (two have happened already in January) so please select an alternate student in case your first student cancels or if you're on the waiting list and are later allowed to send a 2nd student. The forms to be completed by the selected students and parents were emailed to youth chairs in early January; those complete forms MUST be returned to the state office **by March 1** or the local League

will lose their space and someone from the waiting list will be allowed to attend. If you have questions, contact Laura@lwvny.org.

Local League Support Committee: CoJoy Rosenzweig, joyrose6@gmail.com, and Kathy Stein, kstein1@twcny.rr.com, Co-Chairs

The Committee has decided to initiate a program to revive a regional approach to League communication and collaboration. The new Regional Directors' meetings, discussed at the most recent Presidents' Call on January 19, will provide the opportunity for local Leagues to support each other, share ideas, and more. Members of the Committee will be the facilitators for the five regions: Capitol Region, Central Region, Long Island, Westchester County, and Western Region/ Southern Tier. The Directors are now contacting the Presidents in each of their regions.

The Directors and regions are:

Capital Region+

Pattie Garret (pattiemgarrett@gmail.com)

1. Albany County
2. Rensselaer
3. Schenectady County
4. Saratoga County
5. NYC
6. Mid Hudson
7. Putnam County

Central Region

Kathy Stein (kstein1@twcny.rr.com)

1. Cazenovia
2. Cooperstown
3. Oneonta
4. St. Lawrence MAL Unit
5. Syracuse Metro Area
6. Utica/Rome Metro Area
7. North Country

Long Island

Judie Gorenstein (judiel728@aol.com)

1. Central Nassau
2. East Nassau
3. Port Washington/Manhasset
4. Great Neck MAL Unit
5. Brookhaven
6. Huntington
7. Smithtown
8. The Hamptons, Shelter Island and No Fork

Western Region and Southern Tier

Lori Robinson (lorirob528@gmail.com)

Joy Rosenzweig (joyrose6@gmail.com)

1. Buffalo/Niagara
2. Chautauqua
3. Geneva
4. Rochester
5. Cattaraugus & Allegany MAL Unit
6. Broome/Tioga
7. Cortland LWV
8. Steuben & Chemung Cos
9. Tompkins County

Westchester and Rockland Counties

Jane Colvin (janecolvin914@aol.com)

1. Rockland County
2. Northeast Westchester
3. Larchmont/Mamaroneck
4. New Castle
5. Rivertowns
6. New Rochelle
7. Rye, Rye Brook, Port Chester
8. Scarsdale
9. White Plains