

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

61st Biennial Convention



JUNE 20 –22, 2025
THE DESMOND HOTEL
ALBANY, NEW YORK

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2025 Convention Agenda

Time	Event	Room
Friday		
12:00 - 1:30	Board meeting	Suite 156
2:00 - 8:00	Registration	High Street Courtyard
4:00 – 5:00	Sales/Exhibit Room	Suite 120
5:00 – 6:00	Welcome dinner	Koi Pond
6:30-7:30	Speaker: Dianna Wynn, LWVUS President	Fort Orange Ballroom
7:30-8:30	Let’s Talk: Dialogue and Discussion Breakout Groups	Fort Orange Ballroom
9:00-10:00	Evening Caucuses	
	Member Town Hall with Dianna Wynn	Town Hall
	Empty Chair Policy	Shaker Room
10:15-11:00	Hospitality Suite	M14
Saturday		
8:00 - 11:30	Registration	Fort Orange
7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast	2, 4 King Street
8:30 - 9:00	A word from Dianna Wynn	2,4 King Street
9:15 – 10:00 and 10:15 – 11:00	Workshops	
	Building Momentum: Strengthening membership through community relationships and political action	7 Fort Orange
	From Outrage to Impact: Advocacy Tools That Advance Democracy	Town Hall
	Power Up the Vote: A New Look at Get Out the Vote Strategies	5 Fort Orange
	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access: DEI is a Verb!	9 Fort Orange
11:15 – 12:15	Let’s Talk: Dialogue and Discussion Breakout Groups	(stay in workshop rooms)
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch with Speaker: Olivia Hill	2,4 King Street
2:15 – 5:30	Plenary	Town Hall
5:30-6:30	Sales/Exhibit Room	Suite 120
5:30-6:30	Registration	High Street Courtyard
6:00 – 7:00	Reception	Koi Pond
7:00-8:30	Dinner with awards	Fort Orange Ballroom
9:00-10:00	Evening caucuses	

	Vermont Privatization Concurrence	Town Hall
	Take Action Against Plastic Pollution	Shaker Room
	LWVNYS Proposed Budget	Suite 111
9:00-10:30	Hospitality Suite	M14
Sunday		
8:00-9:00	Sales/Exhibit Room	Suite 120
7:30-8:45	Breakfast for Presidents	9 Fort Orange
7:30-8:45	Breakfast for All	5,7 Fort Orange
9:00-12:00	Plenary	Town Hall
11:30-1:00	Sales/Exhibit Room	Suite 120
12:30-3:00	New board meeting with lunch	Suite 156

Featured Speakers



Leading the League

Friday, June 20th, 6:30 PM

Dianna Wynn, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States

Dianna Wynn will join us to talk about the League in this pivotal moment in our nation's history. How will we move forward as an organization and what role does the League have to play in maintaining our democracy?

Dianna Wynn was elected president of the League of Women Voters of the United States in 2024. Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a nationwide grassroots organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy. Prior to joining the LWVUS Board, Dianna was president of the League of Women Voters of Wake County in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is also a past president of the ACLU of North Carolina.

In her professional life, Dianna has over 35 years of experience delivering training to businesses, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and adult learners. She has almost a decade of experience as a trial consultant working with attorney-clients in jurisdictions throughout the country to develop courtroom communication strategies in preparation for complex civil litigation matters.

Dianna was a full-time faculty member at Nash Community College in North Carolina, Midland College in Texas, and Prince George's Community College in Maryland, where she was the Director of Forensics coaching the speech and debate team and served as

the Honors Program Director. Her courses addressed essential communication skills including argumentation and advocacy, leadership, group dynamics, and intercultural communication.

*She is the co-author of several college textbooks including *Working in Groups*, *THINK Communication*, and *The Challenge of Communicating*. *Working in Groups*, now in its eighth edition, has been a market leader with translated editions used in college classrooms throughout the world.*

Dianna has an M.S. in Communication with a minor in Political Science from the University of North Texas, a B.A. in Speech Communication from California State University-Fullerton, and an A.A. in Administration of Justice from Cerritos College in California. Dianna lives in Cary, North Carolina. In her spare time, she is an avid reader and enjoys visiting museums and art galleries with her husband. Dianna previously served on the Board of Directors for Artspace, a nonprofit arts organization in downtown Raleigh dedicated to inspiring positive community impact through art.



Luncheon Speaker

A Call to Action

Saturday, June 21st, 12:30 PM

Olivia Hill

Hear from Olivia Hill who will share her experiences as a candidate for office, a member of the military, and the first openly transgender person to be elected to public office in the state of Tennessee. She will discuss the impact of her transition and how her drive to advocate for what's right led to her run for public office.

Council Member at-Large, Olivia Hill was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. A Navy veteran, Olivia served in the engineering division for ten years, seeing combat in Desert Storm. While serving her country, Olivia gained unique expertise in electrical engineering, a set of skills she utilized to become the Senior Supervisor of the Vanderbilt University power plant, managing a 24/7 operation with a budget of over 100 million dollars. In recent years, Olivia has served as a community leader, educating the public about the difficulties faced by women and the LGBTQ+ community. Olivia was elected to a four year term on the Council in September 2023 as the first openly transgender person in the state of Tennessee.

Workshops

Saturday 9:15 AM to 10:00 AM and 10:15 AM to 11:00 AM

All sessions will be offered twice so that attendees will have the chance to go to two.

Building Momentum: Strengthening membership through community relationships and political action

Ann Marie Pendergast, LWV Saratoga and MaryKate Owens, LWV Albany

It's not who, it's what we support! The combination of the League's nonpartisan policy and our position on issues creates a unique space amid heavily partisan rhetoric. Come to this workshop to identify ways to expand and activate membership, foster partnerships, and lead with League values. We will speak about the role of a nonpartisan organization at this time, what members are hoping for, and the League's purpose in the fight for democracy.

From Outrage to Impact: Advocacy Tools That Advance Democracy

Clyanna Lightbourn, Campaign Director and Erica Smitka, Executive Director

This presentation will equip members with advocacy strategies they can immediately apply to support voting rights and democracy reform, using the Democracy During Detention Act (DDDA) as a live, urgent example. Participants will practice effective tools—like writing letters to the editor, testifying, and contacting legislators—while learning how to advocate for a bill that restores civic power to those excluded from our democracy.

Power Up the Vote: A New Look at Get Out the Vote Strategies

Nick Doran, Vice President of Voter Service

Discover innovative tools and strategies to supercharge your Get Out the Vote efforts. This session will explore how to effectively use technology like VAN, as well as best practices for text and phone banking. Whether you're new to organizing or looking to sharpen your approach, this workshop offers practical insights to boost voter engagement.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access: DEI is a Verb!

Moderated by Regina Tillman, LWVNYS Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Guest panelists:

- *Olivia Hill, Council Member at Large, Nashville TN*
- *Samuel Caldwell, Vice President for Inclusive Excellence & Equity, University of Albany, NY*
- *Angelica Kong, Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Counsel, NYS Office of General Services, Albany NY*

Join us for a timely panel discussion on how to keep diversity, equity, inclusion, and access at the forefront of our work, even in the face of national pushback. Prioritizing this work is vital for engaging all League and community members to participate

responsibly and effectively in a diverse, inclusive, and strong democracy. This conversation will offer practical insights and inspiration for staying committed to equity in challenging times.

Hospitality/Plenary/Sales

HOSPITALITY	SALES AND EXHIBITS	PLENARY
LOCATION: Room M14	LOCATION: Suite 120	LOCATION: Town Hall
Friday, June 20 10:15 – 11:00 pm	Friday, June 20 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Saturday, June 21 2:15 pm – 5:30 pm
<i>Saturday, June 21</i> 9 – 10:30 pm	Saturday, June 21 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Sunday, June 22 9:00 am - Noon
	Sunday, June 22 8:00 am – 9:00 am 11:30 pm – 1:00 pm	

2025 Proposed Convention Rules

A motion to adopt these rules will be made shortly after Convention opens and a quorum has been declared. Amendments to this motion can be made at this time and require a majority vote for adoption. The rules as a whole (either amended or as given below) require a majority vote for adoption. A 2/3 vote is required to change them after they have been adopted.

1. Admission to the Convention floor shall be limited to those displaying authorized badges. Doors are closed promptly when each session convenes. They will be opened periodically. Doors will be closed during a vote, and no one may enter or leave.
2. Seating in the Convention Hall shall be divided into two areas: one for VOTING delegates and one for NON-VOTING delegates and VISITORS. All persons in the hall during sessions are requested to sit in their designated areas.
3. Announcements from the platform shall be made only by the Chair and shall relate only to Convention business or the welfare of the delegates. Notices to be announced must be given to the secretary in writing.
4. Delegates - Only delegates and members of the state board may make motions and vote.
5. A Credentials report shall be given by the Credentials Chair at the beginning of each session. The report shall include the number of delegates, alternates, and visitors. The credentials report shall be updated as requested by the presiding officer of the Convention or upon motion of the Convention.
6. Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business at Convention shall be participation by one tenth of the total number of authorized delegates.
7. Alternates shall vote only when taking the place of a regular delegate, wearing a delegate's badge that has been assigned by the Credentials Chair, and sitting in the delegate section.
8. Privileges of the Floor - Delegates, state board members and those designated by the delegate body may speak.
9. Motions shall be made only by accredited delegates and members of the state board of directors. The mover shall obtain a motion form from the Page at a microphone, complete the form, and return it to the Page for distribution to the Chair, Parliamentarian, Secretary and staff member for display to the audience. The motions or amendments shall include

the name and local League of the mover. There shall be no discussion or action on a motion until a copy is in the hands of the Chair. The Chair may waive this requirement.

10. Debate and discussion shall be limited to those granted the privileges of the floor. Only those standing at a microphone shall be recognized to speak. The Chair shall designate "pro" and "con" microphones at appropriate times and alternately recognize delegates standing at them. Each speaker shall be limited to two minutes. This time may be extended or shortened by a two-thirds vote of the delegate body. No one shall speak for a second time on a question until all who wish to speak have spoken once. No one shall speak more than twice on a question.

11. Voting - Only accredited delegates and members of the state board shall be entitled to vote. Delegates may vote by proxy as outlined in the LWVNYS bylaws; a proxy form will be available from the state League office and must be signed by the local League President and submitted to the Chair at Convention. The Chair, unless otherwise directed by the delegate body, will decide which of the following methods of voting shall be employed:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| a. By Voice | - Delegates vote by saying aye or nay |
| b. By Hand | - Delegates raise hands for aye and nay |
| c. By Standing | - Delegates vote by standing |
| d. By Division of House | - Delegates stand and count off |
| e. By Card | - Delegates submit red and green cards indicating their vote and Elections Committee counts the cards |

When a vote is in process, the doors to the Convention hall shall be closed and no one may enter or leave.

12. Action Motions - An action motion is a means for the delegate body to speak in concert on a matter of importance to the organization. It proposes action on a legislative or administrative matter at the state level and directs the League to take a specific action (e.g., sending a letter to the Governor). Action motions shall be referred to and considered by the Action Motions Committee appointed by the Chair before the first plenary session of the Convention.

- a.** Action motions must be completed and submitted by 5:00 pm on Saturday. Action Motions must be emailed to erica@lwvny.org.
- b.** To be recommended by the Committee, the action motion must:
 - i.** be consistent with League positions and
 - ii.** must not conflict with ongoing advocacy work.
 - iii.** The Committee may also consider whether the action will help further an adopted League priority and
 - iv.** whether the proposed action is likely to have a measurable impact on

the outcome of the matter.

- c. Action motions recommended by the Actions Motions Committee require a majority vote for adoption.

13. The Action Motions Committee and Process: At least four weeks before the Convention, the LWVNYS President shall have appointed an Action Motion Committee consisting of one member of the LWVNYS Board of Directors and one registered Convention delegate.

- a. The Action Motions Committee shall meet on Saturday evening to consider whether each submitted action motion *meets the criteria, timing, and process requirements*. The time and location of the meeting will be announced with the Convention schedule. A representative of the League submitting an action motion shall have an opportunity to explain the action motion to the Action Motions Committee if the representative so requests.
- b. The Chair of the Action Motions Committee will announce the recommendations of the Committee to the Convention during the 2nd plenary session. Any action motion reported affirmatively *to have met the criteria for resolutions or action motions by the Action Motion Committee may be moved for consideration of the Convention*.

14. Miscellaneous Motions - A speaker may request a Page at a microphone to use a colored card to request a point of order, a point of information, a parliamentary inquiry or a question of privilege.

15. Introduction of Proposed Program: The proposed LWVNYS Program shall be moved for adoption by a member of the LWVNYS Board. Debate and action on the Proposed Program shall take place during the 2nd plenary session at a time designated by the Chair. During the times specified in the agenda for Program consideration and Program debate, the Chair will divide the time equally among the program items that have been granted consideration.

16. Consideration of Non-Recommended Program Items: Any delegate may move for consideration of non-recommended Program items at the first plenary session immediately following the introduction of the Proposed Program. Presentations shall be limited to five minutes. No additional motions or debate are in order at this time. If a non-recommended item is moved for consideration, any delegate may request a statement from the LWVNYS Board, limited to five minutes, giving the reasons for not recommending the item.

- a. After all non-recommended items have been moved for consideration, a vote for consideration of each shall take place in the order in which the items were

- moved for consideration. No additional motions or debate are in order at this time. A majority vote is required to consider a non-recommended item.
- b.** Debate and action on non-recommended Program items shall take place at the same plenary as debate and action on the proposed Program as designated by the Chair.
- 17. Adoption of Program:** shall take place at the second plenary session.
- a.** Action on the proposed Program, concurrence proposals, and any non-recommended program items voted for consideration by the delegates and moved for adoption shall take place at a time designated by the chair. Proposals for concurrence are debatable but not amendable.
- b.** A majority vote is required to adopt the proposed Program.
- c.** A 3/5 vote is required for adoption of non-recommended items.
- d.** Amendments to wording for editorial purposes, clarification, or emphasis may be made at this point but may not change the scope or meaning of the item.
- 18. Nominations:** Any candidate who is nominated from the floor shall give consent and be allowed to address the delegates for one minute immediately after their name is placed in nomination.
- 19. Elections** - The Credentials Chair shall present a final report to the Convention or the election committee before the election procedure begins.
- 20. Promotional materials** may be distributed only by delegates and alternates wearing badges and only before or after a session. Official Convention materials and promotional materials relating to Convention issues may be placed on the chairs or tables prior to the beginning of a convention session.
- 21. Rules** - After adoption, these rules may be amended or suspended by a two-thirds vote. Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, will govern all matters not covered in the rules or in the bylaws.
- 22. Minutes** - The minutes of the LWVNYS Convention shall be approved by the LWVNYS board of directors upon recommendation of a Minutes Review Committee appointed to review and correct the minutes.

Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS	MAY YOU INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	MUST YOU BE SECONDED?	IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?	VOTE NEEDED
Adjourn the meeting	I move that we adjourn	No	Yes	No	Majority
Recess the meeting until...	I move that we recess the meeting until...	No	Yes	No	Majority
Complain about noise, room, temperature, etc.	Point of privilege	Yes	No	No	No vote
Suspend further consideration of something	I move we table it	No	Yes	No	Majority
End, limit, or extend debate	I move (that) the previous question	No	Yes	No	2/3 vote
Postpone consideration of something	I move we postpone this matter until...	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Have something studied further	I move we refer this to committee.	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	I move to amend this motion	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Introduce business (a primary motion)	I move that...	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Object to procedure or to personal affront	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No vote: chair decides
Request information or Parliamentary Inquiry	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No vote
Ask for a rising vote to verify a voice vote	I call for a division of the house	Yes	No	No	No vote
Ask for a vote count to verify a rising vote	I call for a vote count	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Object to considering some matter	I object to consideration	Yes	No	No	2/3 vote
Take up a matter previously tabled	I move to take from the table...	No	Yes	No	Majority

Parliamentary Procedure Cont.

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS	MAY YOU INTERRUPT SPEAKER?	MUST YOU BE SECONDED?	IS THE MOTION DEBATABLE?	VOTE NEEDED
Reconsider something already disposed of	*I move we reconsider action on	Yes	Yes	Yes	Only a majority if original quest. was debatable
Consider something not in scheduled order	I move we suspend the rules and...	No	Yes	No	2/3 vote
Vote on a ruling by the chair	I appeal the chair's decision.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Division of question (voting separately on parts)	I move to divide the question.	No	Yes	No	Majority
Consider seriatim or consider by paragraph (amend each & then vote on the whole)	I move we consider by paragraph.	No	Yes	No	Majority
Rescind (repeal)	I move to rescind the motion which was adopted...	No	Yes	Yes	2/3 vote

* Must be done by someone who voted on the prevailing side and must be done the same or following day.

Thanks to the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts for providing the basis for this memo.

Tips for Delegates

This workbook contains the information necessary for full and informed participation in Convention debate and decision-making.

Convention Conduct: Sessions begin promptly. The Order of Business (Agenda) adopted at the opening session will be closely followed. In order to fulfill your responsibility to interpret and report Convention action to your own League and to represent it accurately, you should be seated before the opening time of each session and remain until recess or adjournment. Delegates are uninstructed and make decisions based on their best judgment in the light of Convention discussion. As a representative of your local League, however, you should know the thinking of your members. You should see that their opinions are adequately and fully presented during debate.

Discussion and debate are the most important parts of a League Convention. However, delegates should exercise self-discipline if the time schedule is to be maintained. If a previous speaker makes your point while you are waiting to speak, either sit down or say, "I agree with the previous speaker." A delegate wishing to address the Convention should go to a microphone, wait for recognition, and then state her/his name and League.

All motions must be in writing and handed to the Page at the microphone for transmittal to the Chair before the motion is made. Help the secretary to prepare Convention minutes by giving the Page copies of your statements. ***Proposed non-recommended items must be properly worded so delegates understand what is involved and what the implications are for state program.***

Caucuses are an exciting part of Convention. Attend one or more of them. Rooms will be available on Saturday evening for caucuses and other informal meetings. Contact the Convention registration desk in order to arrange for a caucus room. State board members do not attend caucuses; if you would like one or more state board members to attend your caucus, you must invite them.

Exchange of ideas and information among the delegates is most valuable. Split up your delegation when attending caucuses and other meetings.

Program adoption begins during the first Convention session with the presentation of the program proposed by the state board. ***Questions for clarification*** only (e.g., the extent, meaning or timing of the item) may be asked at this time. The Chair will rule out of order any discussion on the merits of the item.

After the state board's proposals are presented, delegates may move consideration of non-recommended items submitted by local Leagues during the program making process. A delegate moving a non-recommended item is limited to ***five minutes*** for its presentation.

Editorial changes in recommended items (changes in language which do not change the meaning or scope of the item) should not be proposed at this time. If necessary, the Chair

will rule as to whether a suggested wording constitutes an editorial change or a non-recommended item.

The "PROPOSED 2025-2027 LWVNYS PROGRAM" in this Kit contains all of the "Recommended Items."

(a) A delegate wishing to drop an item on the recommended program should vote against it. No motion is necessary.

(b) Any expansion of present recommended items involving new study or redirection must be moved as a non-recommended item. This can only be done if the expansion is included in the list of non-recommended items circulated in this workbook.

All program motions will be voted on during the second session in the following sequence:

1. The state board's recommended proposals.
2. Non-recommended items voted for consideration in the order in which they were presented to the Convention.

When an item is brought up for final debate and vote, motions to amend its wording may be made. These changes may be editorial, for clarification or for emphasis, but may not limit or enlarge the scope of the item. A majority vote is required to amend and the proposed amendment is acted on before the final vote on the item is taken. If a delegate intends to move an editorial change, it would be helpful to indicate this during the free discussion period.

Items recommended by the state board require a majority vote for adoption; non-recommended items require a 3/5 vote. (Bylaws, Article XI, Sec. 3)

Plenary Session Agenda

LOCATION: Town Hall

Plenary Session I

Saturday, June 21st, 2:15 pm

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 2:15 pm | Call to Order
Nancy Rosenthal, LWVNYS President |
| 2:20 | Welcome to Albany |
| 2:30 | Welcoming Remarks by Nancy Rosenthal |
| 2:45 | Acknowledgements:

Local League volunteers/other volunteers:
Linda McKenney
Kai Rosenthal
Judie Gorenstein
Laura Bierman
Lori Robinson
Deborah Liebman
Darnell Rohrbaugh
Barb Thomas
Joanna Lasher
Joan Johnson
Cheryl Nechamen
Charle Philips
Mary Roche
Aimee Allaud
Karen Maher
Poorvi Sarkar
Lea Mastorakis
Steve Koebrich
Pat Maxon
Cathy Cain
Kathy Koebrich – Training of volunteers for plenary sessions |
| 2:55 | Introductions:

State Board

Staff (Erica Smitka, Clyanna Lightbourn, Xavia Francis, Virginia Gokhale)

Parliamentarian: Laura Bierman (LWV of Albany)

Elections Committee Chair: Nick Doran (LWV of Broome Tioga) and Mary Croxton (LWV of Chautauqua) |

Minutes Review: Kate Doran (LWV of the City of New York) and Margie McIntosh (Cattaraugus and Allegany MAL Unit)

Action Motions Committee: Jane Colvin (LWV of the City of New York) and Deborah Liebman (LWV of Albany)

Credentials Chair: Kai Rosenthal (LWV of the City of New York)

**3:00 Report of the Credentials Committee
Kai Rosenthal, Chair (LWV of the City of New York)**

3:05 Adoption of Rules of Convention

3:10 Adoption of the Order of Business

**3:20 Report of the Nominating Committee:
Judie Gorenstein, Nominating Committee**

- **Nominations from floor**

**3:25 Presentation of Proposed Recommended Bylaws changes
Nancy Rosenthal, President**

**3:35 Program Presentation
Nancy Rosenthal, President**

4:00 Financial Report: Erica Smitka, Executive Director

**4:15 Presentation of Proposed Budget
Erica Smitka, Executive Director**

4:40 Intent to Propose Action Motions

5:00 Moments in the Sun

5:25 Announcements

Plenary Session II
Sunday, June 22nd, 9:00 am

9:00 Call to Order

**9:05 am Report of the Credentials Committee
Kai Rosenthal, Chair**

9:10 Bylaws Discussion and Adoption

9:30	Program Discussion and Adoption
10:00	Consideration of Action Motions
10:30	Vote on Proposed Budget
10:35	Election of Officers and Directors
10:40	Gifts to Outgoing Board: Nancy Rosenthal
11:00	Remarks by President: Nancy Rosenthal
11:15	Remaining Moments in the Sun
11:30	Directions to the Board

ADJOURNMENT

President’s Report

Nancy Rosenthal

What should I write for this Convention?

I’ve asked myself this question many times. I’ve reflected deeply—on our nation, our League, and what this moment calls for.

I thought back to Judie Gorenstein, my mentor and former President of LWVNY. In 2023, she spoke with conviction and clarity about the importance of our work and the strength of our members across the state. Her words were powerful then, but now—given the stark challenges we face—they feel almost gentle in comparison.

Today, we find ourselves in a more turbulent political climate. The current administration stands in opposition to many of the League’s core positions. Threats to voting rights, reproductive freedom, and democratic institutions are not hypothetical—they are real, and they are present.

Since January 20, 2025, the question we’ve heard most often is: *“What can we do, given what is happening?”*

The reality has proven to be even more troubling than expected. That’s why the League’s early efforts to set clear priorities for how we would respond have been invaluable. Thanks to this proactive approach, both LWVNY and LWVUS have been better positioned to take meaningful action.

Almost immediately, we had guidance on how to uphold our nonpartisan stance while working in coalition with other organizations, how to plan and participate in protests safely and effectively, and how to reaffirm our commitment to our DEI principles—even in the face of adversity.

In April, LWVUS declared a constitutional crisis: the current administration in Washington is failing to uphold its duty to protect the Constitution and is actively advancing laws that undermine it.

In response, Unite & Rise 8.5 was launched—a bold initiative aimed at mobilizing 8.5 million voters to shape a democracy grounded in resilience, equity, and inclusion. For LWVNY members, Unite & Rise 8.5 offers a proactive framework to organize, educate, and empower both our members and communities across New York State.

For LWVNY, this is a moment for meaningful collaboration. We have the opportunity to build partnerships across sectors, amplify our message, and drive real change.

There has never been a more critical time to be part of the League. The work we do now will have a lasting impact.

Your Board and the LWVNY staff are dedicated to supporting our members in this work, across a wide range of areas—most notably in Issues and Advocacy, Voter Services, guidance for strengthening our local Leagues, and our ongoing commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

You will find detailed reports on each of these focus areas, as well as from our issue specialists covering: Campaign Finance Reform, Criminal Justice, Education, Election Law, Energy, Agriculture and the Environment, Health Care, Equality of Opportunity, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking.

This breadth of work reflects LWVNY’s strong commitment to making a meaningful impact across many critical areas that affect New Yorkers every day.

The transformation of the dues process has challenged—and continues to challenge—all of us. Recognizing the complexity and potential issues early on, LWVNY was one of the few, if not the only, State League to assign a dedicated Board member to manage this demanding transition.

Since the implementation began on February 1, 2025, through May 1, 2025, we have welcomed an extraordinary influx of 7,000 new members. These individuals have joined us with the same purpose and passion we all share: to stand united against the ongoing, strategic attacks on our democracy.

Yes, there have been challenges—we’re all aware of them. But rest assured, they are being addressed promptly and responsibly. This process is evolving, and so are we. Together, we’re building a stronger, more resilient League.

So what do I write for this Convention?

I want to share how proud I am to serve alongside my fellow Board members and to have the opportunity to connect with so many of you—whether through emails, Zoom meetings, or in person.

We are all volunteers, yet the work we do often feels like a 40-plus hour job. And we do it because we believe in the League, in our mission, and in each other.

In closing, I write with urgency. I write to affirm that the League of Women Voters of New York will not back down. We will meet this moment, as we always have: with resolve, with unity, and with action. Our mission is not only relevant—it is essential.

Now is the time to raise our voices, protect our democracy, and remind every New Yorker that the League is here—and we are not going anywhere.

Voter Services Report

Nick Doran, Vice President for Voter Services

Leagues were busy with voter registration events in 2024! In total, Leagues hosted 823 voter registration drives with the help of 1,879 volunteers. Of these, 276 drives targeted under-resourced communities, a focus of the League in 2025. At these drives, Leagues registered 10,000 voters and distributed an additional 4,100 forms. Leagues participated in 98 naturalization ceremonies and registered over 3,300 voters and distributed another 1,600+ forms. Leagues held 34 in-person, three virtual, and six hybrid candidate forums.

Leagues were also busy handing out materials 2024! Leagues distributed more than 16,000 flyers, mailed 13,700 postcards, handed out 19,400 palm cards, and hung 12,000 doorhangers. Nearly 8,000 Voter Guide Part I pamphlets were handed out in English and another 1,500 were distributed in Spanish. They also handed out over 9,300 QR codes. They created 21 PSAs, 15 videos, and handed out 335 posters. Leagues also managed to find the time to hold 230 workshops. Thirty-one Leagues used social media, primarily Facebook and Instagram, to get out their message. Leagues posted 277 races to Vote411 this year. Through all of this, local Leagues recruited 626 new members. The average League gained 16 new members, although the median was six new members.

The Voter Service Committee updated the three toolkits: Voter Registration, GOTV, and Candidate Forum. The refreshed toolkits are reorganized in a new format for easy reading and additional ideas. We also revised the First Vote booklet and Voter Rights brochures with current voter information.

We presented in the regional workshops in 2024 the interactive presentation “The Wild Ride: Get Ready for the 2024 Election Season!” The workshop provided Leagues with the processes and tools needed for a successful 2024 election season in NYS, with a focus on Get Out the Vote (GOTV).

LWVNYS partnered with Disability Rights NY to offer American Sign Language and real-time closed captioning (Numerous languages are available) for any 2024 Candidate Events or other Voter Events at no cost to local leagues. DRNY has successfully partnered with several Local Leagues across the state to provide ASL interpretation and live Closed Captioning during candidate forums, among other events.

The Voter Service Committee reviewed the Empty Chair Policy. We discussed whether the League’s nonpartisanship policy can be maintained if we carve out exceptions to the Empty Chair Policy. The Voter Service Committee concluded that we cannot begin to make exceptions to the Empty Chair Policy. We determined that making exceptions could weaken and perhaps begin to erode this important League policy. The League’s credibility is built upon behavior that neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. Our nonpartisan behavior in holding and conducting candidate events is regarded by many as the “gold standard.” We have worked long and hard to achieve this status in the eyes of

the public. We never support or oppose candidates or political parties and because of that, our forums and materials are highly valued by the public; we have no hidden agenda and seek to provide information about candidates and issues that is unbiased. Allowing only one candidate to speak at a forum when other candidates do not participate creates the appearance that the League supports that candidate; it also provides that candidate with free advertising which is equivalent to financial support.

Thank you for the energy and two successful voter service years. We are proud of the all the work the local Leagues do in reaching out to their communities to ensure that voters are well informed about the elections.

Issues and Advocacy Report

Sally Robinson, Vice President for Issues and Advocacy
Erica Smitka, LWVNYS Executive Director

Redistricting

In 2024 and 2025, we continued to work with Common Cause and a small group of organizations (LatinoJustice, Citizens Union, APA Voice, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, New York Civic Engagement Table, and the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College) on a bill to revise the process of redistricting in NYS. The plan is to introduce the proposed legislation in the 2026 session.

Jail Based Voting

In January of 2025, with the support of the New York Community Trust, we launched a campaign to work to pass the Democracy During Detention Act, which would codify voting in jails across the state and establish a process by which counties must comply.

NY Equal Rights Campaign

On May 31, 2024, we filed a proposed amicus brief with the Appellate Division, Fourth Department in the case *Byrnes v. Senate of the State of N.Y.* concerning the Livingston County Supreme Court’s Decision and Order throwing the NYS ERA Constitutional Amendment ballot proposal off the November ballot. The basis for the amicus is that the court’s decision is creating confusion among voters so close to election day. We also used the justification that we have spent hundreds of hours both internally and externally working to educate voters on this amendment. See the amicus brief at: <https://rb.gy/sisj0u>

On July 11, 2024, the Court of Appeals decided not to hear the appeal filed in relation to the case decided by the Appellate Division, Fourth Department in the case *Byrnes v. Senate of the State of N.Y.*. The decision in the Fourth Department returned the NY ERA Constitutional Amendment to the ballot.

On July 5, 2024, the [ballot language](#) was announced by the NYS Board of Elections. Leagues across the state provided public comment on the ballot language and suggested improvements to make it more accessible to voters. By the summer of 2024, the LWVNYS ERA Taskforce was comprised of over 70 members who were leading the effort to pass the amendment in their own local Leagues. Taskforce members hosted over 100 events statewide on the NY ERA.

In September and October of 2024, local Leagues participated in phone banking, canvassing, post carding, and other education efforts to boost turnout around this ballot measure. A strong misinformation campaign made it difficult to predict the outcome. We were extremely pleased to see that the ballot measure was approved by voters across the state and the New York State Equal Rights Amendment will become a part of the New York State Constitution.

Events

Between 2023 and 2025 we held several advocacy related events.

- **Endocrine Disruptors in Plastics:** This event was hosted in conjunction with Beyond Plastics, Beford 2030, and several other non-profit organizations. Beth Radow will facilitate the event which will feature Senator Pete Harckham, Dr. Peter Meyers (Environmental Health Network), and Dr. Megan Wolff (Beyond Plastics). Our Westchester League did a fantastic job helping us recruit attendees for this event and over 950 people registered.
- **Our Vote, Our Power:** We hosted this event on September 20, 2024 with the Queens County Bar Association. The event’s topic is the impact of the women’s suffrage movement and how it affects where we are today.
- **Advocacy Day:** Every May we host an advocacy day for all League members to join us to advocate at the Capitol. In May of 2024 we had 35 members from across the State join us. After the morning of presentations all members went up to the Capitol. Several members went to meetings with their representatives and others joined us and Compassion and Choices for a rally to support Medical Aid in Dying. We spoke at the rally along with many legislators and advocacy organizations. In May of 2025, we partnered with the New York Black, Indigenous, People of Color Democracy Table on an advocacy day and had 65 attendees and over 50 meetings with legislators. We hosted our own press conference which was attended by members and advocates and several press outlets.
- **Each winter we attend the NYS Election Commissioners Association Conference.** We spend multiple days with commissioners from across the state, attending sessions led by the State Board of Elections and county commissioners. The League staffs a table with several of our coalition partners and distributed information on democracy priorities. We spoke with county commissioners about how we could best support their efforts to reach voters across the state.

- Every January we host a Legislative Hot Topics webinar for all members. All of our issue specialists and issue committee chairs join us on the call-in addition to the State Issues Committee. The presentation focuses on how NYS does advocacy work and how members can get involved.
- Public Campaign Finance Briefing: In December of 2023, the League, in conjunction with Fair Elections and Public Citizen, hosted a briefing and training on the new public campaign finance program for a training on how the program works and how all of us can support its success.

Ethics Reform

COELIG Roundtable

Along with the other good government groups, the League was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion regarding the 2024 legislative agenda for the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG) in November in NYC. We made recommendations regarding sexual harassment, financial disclosure for candidates, and the legislative ethics commission. We felt the roundtable went well and that commissioners were generally receptive to ideas from the good government organizations. COELIG ultimately made a few small changes to their legislative agenda in response to this collaboration.

COELIG Lawsuit

New York state’s much maligned former ethics commission JCOPE was replaced in 2022 with the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government COELIG which currently oversees and regulates ethics and lobbying. In a significant change from JCOPE, which was criticized as too much under the control of the Governor through the appointment process, COELIG commissioners are ultimately approved by an independent review committee.

In 2023, former Governor Cuomo sued COELIG over its ruling that he return the \$5 million he earned over a book deal about his administration’s handling of the Covid-19 pandemic on the grounds that a commission that exercises executive authority cannot cede appointment power to the legislature and that an unelected panel cannot have the power to veto appointments. So far, these claims have prevailed in court with the Court of Appeals hearing the case recently (most observers seemed to feel the Court had significant concerns about the COELIG structure) with an expected decision in a few months.

The League has worked for years with other good government groups in an ethics working group to craft a replacement for JCOPE. A constitutional amendment creating a truly independent ethics agency has always been perceived to be the best long-term solution. The court ultimately ruled that COELIG was constitutional.

Legislative Session

In 2024, controversy over a congestion pricing bill in NYC affected much of session and not much was passed. The only bill of note that moved through was the second passage of the New York Equal Rights Amendment and a bill called the “Climate Change Superfund Act”. We were much more successful in this session in the budget period. We asked for \$10M in funds to be directed to County Boards of Elections for the 2024 election. This ask was covered by the press and featured on NPR and there was an inclusion of \$10M in funds in the final budget. We also asked for and saw the inclusion of funds to support the NYS Public Campaign Finance Program, funds to support the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government, funds to support the Doctor John L. Flateau Voting and Elections Database and Academic Center of New York Act

Other bills we were advocating for this session, such as the ERIC bill, the bottle bill, plastic reduction, and Medical Aid in Dying, did not pass.

In 2025, we again advocated for funds to be given directly to local boards of elections, we did see some funds included in the final budget, but not as much as in years past. We also advocated for the full support of the NYS Public Campaign Finance Board, which was successful. The two biggest legislative wins this session was the passage of the ERIC bill, which allows NYS to join a multistate voter registration system. This will help us keep our voter rolls cleaner, will help register new voters, and will take some of the administrative burden off of boards of elections. The Medical Aid in Dying bill was also successfully passed and you can read more about that below. In this session we were awarded a Lobby Corps grant from LWVUS, which helped us establish a state Lobby Corps and helped financially support our annual lobby day so that we could offer free lunch and materials to attendees.

Committee on Energy, Agriculture, and the Environment **Elisabeth (Beth) Radow, Committee Chair**

Action taken has included correspondence to Governor Hochul, submission of written testimony, and memoranda of support to (i) reduce the use or prevent the further extraction of natural gas and otherwise halt means of natural gas emissions which contribute to the climate emergency; (ii) transition to more affordable, clean energy consistent with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; (iii) advocate for K-12 education on the climate; (iv) advocate for waste reduction and solid waste management; (v) restrict the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in crops to support pollinators and other wildlife; and (vi) prohibit the discharge of radioactive agents into NYS waterways.

Support of environmental legislative measures is informed by, and consistent with, the following:

The Environmental Rights Constitutional Amendment

In 2020 and 2021 the League of Women Voters NYS supported a constitutional amendment that would add a right to clean water, clean air, and a healthful environment to the New York Constitution. The measure passed and was added to the State Constitution’s Bill of Rights in November 2021. Article I, Section 19 of the state constitution now explicitly states: "Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment".

Declaration of Climate Emergency

At its June 2021 biannual convention, the League of Women Voters NYS’ members unanimously adopted a resolution declaring climate change an emergency and advising the League’s 46 local chapters to implore state and local governments to adopt and publicize Declarations of Climate Emergency.

Declarations of Climate Emergency acknowledge that humanity is in a climate emergency and encourage governments to plan next steps for climate change mitigation. The resolution cited damage to marine ecosystems and food sources, a rise in sea levels resulting in flooding and the displacement of coastal businesses and residences, extreme weather events, adverse impacts on human health, and species extinctions as grounds for state and local governments to declare climate change an emergency and take action. This is consistent with the CLCPA.

Conservation

The League of Women Voters NYS has consistently supported policies that promote the reduction of waste, the reuse of products and materials over disposal, and the responsible management of waste that can’t be reused.

Social Justice and the Environment

Emphasis on social justice is associated with the environmental legislation supported by the League of Women Voters NYS.

Committee on Healthcare
Judy Esterquest, Committee Chair

LWV NYS HealthCare Committee (HCC) meets monthly from January to June and three times from July to December. Members hail from across New York, with experience in healthcare (RNs, MDs, MSWs, RDNs, health policy), caregiving, and advocacy (for universal healthcare, disability rights, fraud prosecution). All champion the NY Health Act, which would make all essential healthcare accessible to every NYS resident, publicly

funded, and save about \$20B annually compared to what NYS spends today. At meetings, we share ideas, consider initiatives, and discuss/prioritize pending legislation. We also discuss bills supported by other NYS issues committees, particularly Criminal Justice and the Rural Caucus, but also the Equality Committee (MAID, ERA).

Over the past two legislative sessions, we have been heartened by passage of bills for:

- Children's Health: legislators eliminated "Medicaid churn" from birth to age 6, giving access to well-child visits, vaccinations, counsel on developmental milestones; kept fighting to protect School-Based Health Centers from managed care (on-going).
- Maternal Morbidity and Mortality rose 30% in NYS 2018-2022, but biennial DOH surveys now provide focus to legislators who have enacted laws to expand post-partum coverage (from 60 days) to 12-months, to cover doula services statewide, to ensure paid leave for pre-natal visits, to keep at-risk hospitals open, to help providers overcome documented sexism and racism during labor, delivery, pre- and post-partum.
- Reproductive Rights: legislators increased telehealth coverage, protected providers from out-of-state criminal sanctions, passed the NYS ERA (voters ratified it in 2024).
- Medical Debt Relief: prohibited hospital liens on homes, reporting to credit agencies, hospitals not giving subsidies to charity-eligible patients — but debt continues to harm patients, families, public health, and local economies. More must be done.

For-profit entities are increasingly acquiring, asset-stripping, and closing healthcare facilities and provider groups, as documented in a tsunami of recent headlines. In 2023, LWV of Vermont did a study on privatization — initially focused on healthcare and then broadened to include public goods more generally. Based on that study, LWVVT adopted a new position. LWVNY, with many other state and local Leagues, supported bringing this LWVVT position to Convention 2024 to update/clarify the national League's privatization position. The effort failed. HCC discussions on this resulted in NYS local Leagues of HCC members concurring with a shortened version of LWVVT. NYS Convention 2025 will vote whether to adopt the shortened version by concurrence.

With adoption, LWVNY could choose to support recently introduced legislation designed to protect patient access to quality care:

- prohibiting new for-profit nursing homes, hospices, or residential treatment programs
- increasing transparency about for-profit upstream ownership of nonprofit facilities, including passive investors
- increasing regulation/transparency of Medicaid Managed Care and Long-Term Care

- new audit rules for access, quality, and profits
- NYS manufacture of at-cost generic drugs

Medical Aid in Dying

Barb Thomas, Issue Specialist

Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) - We made spectacular progress in 2025. We finally got the bill to pass in the Assembly, after a nail-biting 4-hour debate. League members, mainly from Saratoga and Albany, lined the halls of the wind tunnel every Tuesday to show support for MAID and convince legislators to vote YES. All those phone calls and handwritten notes from Leaguers were incredibly critical.

Advocates continued to contact Senators and on Friday, June 6, the Majority Leader said that she had enough votes to bring the bill to the floor. Then, on Monday, June 9, after going into session at 1:30 PM the Senate finally passed the bill at about 9:45 PM! One more hurdle before this bill becomes a law: getting the Governor to sign it. So, send her a nice handwritten note or letter telling her why you support the bill.

Equality of Opportunity

Barb Thomas, Issue Specialist

League members were often the only boots on the ground in their communities around the state, as we all worked hard to pass the NYS Equal Rights Amendment (Prop 1). LWVNY formed a very effective network with two representatives from every League. And, of course, LWVNY was part of a larger coalition. The amendment passed, so now NYS has added protections for the rights of everyone to the NYS Constitution. This is especially crucial as national political parties try to strip back the rights of so many groups.

LWVNY has been working with POWHER to improve economic rights for women and minorities in the workplace and is making some progress in terms of employee and job applicant access to information they need to improve their wages and benefits compared to white men.

Committee on Criminal Justice Reform

Rigodis Appling and Richard Rifkin, Co-Chairs

At the forefront of the Criminal Justice Reform Committee's advocacy the past two years was *Jail Voting and Polling Sites*. We encouraged local leagues to have their members volunteer to register voters in their local jails and to report back on ways they may be able

to work with sheriffs or election boards to facilitate better methods of voter enfranchisement in jails, such as polling sites. We also urged our state legislators to acknowledge the right to vote and to facilitate the exercise of that right for all eligible detained persons. We are specifically asking:

- For the local Board of Elections and jail administration to develop a facility voter access plan for each county jail to ensure access to at least one form of secure voting—absentee, early vote by mail, or poll site
- Secure hand delivery of absentee ballots and their timely delivery back to the Board of Elections
- Develop a modern voter-centric policy with enhanced accountability, education, and improved access to civil rights
- Mandatory placement of early voting sites in the larger county jails, with populations of 400 or more residents, including Albany, Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Onondaga, Suffolk, Westchester, and Rikers Island. Boards of election in smaller counties with smaller jail populations would still have the authority to place early voting sites in the county jails

The Criminal Justice Reform Committee also supported *Parole Justice* bills because endless punishment does nothing to keep our communities safe and costs a fortune. New York spends \$240,000 per year to lock up each older adult, money that could be spent on improving community safety through good jobs, vibrant schools, quality health care (including mental health care), stable housing, and more. These bills are:

Fair & Timely Parole (S159-Salazar/A127-Weprin) Restores the Parole Board’s original purpose of evaluating people’s readiness for release, rather than denying people based solely on their conviction and preserves the Board’s discretion to make individualized determinations.

Elder Parole (S454-Hoylman/A514-Davila) Provides for parole release consideration, on a case-by-case basis, for people DOCCS classifies as older adults (age 55+) who have served at least 15 years.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE BILLS CONTACT rtappling@legal-aid.org

Rural Caucus Committee
Kathleen Stein, Chair

NY Rural Caucus (RC) members have been active again this year advocating around issues that affect our communities.

Last year’s LWV US Convention produced mixed results for Rural issues. We were very pleased that delegates voted to adopt LWV WA’s Local Journalism and Democracy

position as a national position. Those of us who live in rural communities where newspaper closures or consolidations have crippled coverage of local government immediately saw the value of this concurrence. Its passage enabled us to successfully advocate *as the League* for the NY Local Journalism Sustainability Act.

On the other hand, we were disappointed that LWV VT's position on the Privatization of Healthcare was not adopted since private equity firms taking over hospitals and nursing homes has been one of the factors driving closures of such institutions in rural areas. We hope that delegates to this convention will vote to have LWV NY adopt at the state level LWV PWM's concurrence with the Vermont position. (Several RC Leagues have already concurred with the position.)

This year, the Caucus has continued to share information about **rural healthcare issues**. In this regard, Judy Esterquest (of the PWM LWV), a Caucus member and NYS Healthcare Issue Specialist, has been an invaluable resource, as has Broome-Tioga League President Susan Ruff, who is Advocacy Director for the Southern Tier Independence Center in Binghamton.

The RC continues to support the New York Health Act, which would help so many under and uninsured rural residents, but also worked on other healthcare issues.

It was via Sue Ruff and her work helping disabled persons live as independently as possible that we learned about the so far disastrous changes made by the Governor to the state's Consumer Directed Personal Assistant Program (CDPAP) which has enabled some 250,000 people to use Medicaid benefits to pay home caregivers of their choice. CDPAP has kept disabled people out of nursing homes (a considerably more expensive and less healthy option) and even enabled them to hold jobs in some cases. Given the shortage of nursing home beds and assisted living facilities in rural areas, CDPAP also enables elderly and disabled persons to stay close to friends and family. RC members have advocated for a more measured approach to reforming some aspects of this program and a roll back of related changes made in 2020 to the level of assistance with daily activities needed to qualify for the CDPAP.

Other healthcare priorities for the Rural Caucus include continued support for the Local Input for Community Healthcare (LICH) Act (vetoed by the Governor in 2024) which would ensure effective community input before hospital closures or mergers, as well as before the elimination of emergency rooms or the termination of maternal care. Also on our radar is a bill that would expand telemedicine reimbursement at parity to in person care to include mental health care, addiction services and services for the developmentally disabled. Finally, we are also following legislation that will create predictable funding for

Emergency Medical and Community Para-Medical Services, including the recruiting and training of more EMTs.

NY’s ongoing child care and home care crises continue to be major concerns for RC members. We are still working to pass legislation that would help address both issues by guaranteeing a living wage for child care workers and for home care workers as well. We also supported two other bills that would help rural parents and providers. We were elated by the broad bipartisan support for both of them: a bill that would decouple child care subsidies from hours worked which would thereby cover travel time in rural areas, and another to repeal NY’s minimum earnings requirement to receive child care assistance. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed both of them, so we and other advocates have resumed our efforts to make them law.

Last summer RC Leagues, like other Leagues across the state, organized and participated in **efforts to pass Proposal 1, aka the New York ERA**. The North Country League devoted their Women’s Equality Day programing to the NY ERA. The Schenectady League organized a panel discussion at Union College which included speakers from Planned Parenthood, a disability rights group, and a local pastor who is a LGBTQ advocate. The panel was taped and other Leagues were able to take advantage of the wealth of information provided. Other RC members participated in panels organized by, or were invited to speak to, other groups in their areas, including the Cattaraugus-Allegheny, Chautauqua, and St. Lawrence County Leagues. The organizations involved included AAUW, Zonta, Rotary Club, the UU Church, NAACP, the St. Lawrence County Historical and Cultural Center, local colleges, and local libraries.

Since January the Rural Caucus has been particularly interested in keeping each other informed about **the local effects of executive orders and policy changes in Washington**. We set up a google docs to share LTEs and other information for advocacy work. At meetings, we share information about the **disruptions and problems being caused in our areas by federal layoffs and cuts to federal funding**. For example, sudden cuts to funding for an immigrant resettlement program in Broome-Tioga prompted a GoFundMe campaign to salvage the program. We learned from David Newman of Rochester Metro Area LWV that at a statewide gathering of mayors, attendees discussed the projects that they were delaying because they could no longer be sure the state grant money was going to come through as promised because cuts to federal funding might necessitate redirection of funds.

In rural areas where agriculture is a major economic driver, and where 40-60% of workers, depending on the sector, are immigrants, **ICE raids are going to cause serious problems**, especially as we get into the planting, and later, harvesting seasons. For dairy farms, the threat of disruption is year-round.

Most recently RC members have shared **reports from Hands Off, No Kings, and May Day Strong rallies**, some of which our LLs have organized or co-organized. Seeing 500 or 1000 people turn out in small rural towns to protest policies that violate Constitutional rights has given many of us hope in these uncertain times.

Finally, over the course of the last year, we have also shared **“How to Run for Office” resources**: Cindy Bell of the Mid-Hudson League had a wealth of materials for us, as did Whitney Oxendahl of LWV North Dakota (one of our out of state members). LWV SLC did two video primers, one on running for local office in NY, and one on running for school board. As we look ahead to the elections this fall and beyond, encouraging citizens to channel their concern into running for office is another way for us to take action. The Rural Caucus meets bimonthly and there is no need to live in a rural area to be a member. If you are interested in the issues that affect rural communities, and would like to be part of the Caucus, let me know! kstein1@twcnny.rr.com

State Finances: Public Education

Marian Bott, Issue Specialist

Foundation Aid Funding: This is a long-standing advocacy area for the State League, stemming from our support of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit which was initiated in 1993 and for which we served as *amici* during the course of the litigation. For the past two state fiscal years (April 1, 2023-March 31, 2025) advocates following policy and budget developments in New York State have sought to influence the main formula which distributes Pre-K to 12 Education funding for public schools. Known as Foundation Aid, it funds on average about \$10,000 per student for the 2.6 million students in New York State’s public schools, and also distributes funds to private schools for books, transportation and special needs students. Federal funds and local taxpayer funds make up the balance of the approximately \$36,000 per pupil expenditures. Per pupil expenditures have gone up partly due to declining enrollment in public schools statewide.

For FY April 1, 2025-March 31, 2026, the Legislature enacted a budget including \$26 billion in Foundation Aid, \$120 million more than the Governor proposed, and a \$1.7 billion or 4.9% increase in TOTAL state aid (includes other aids) over the prior Fiscal Year. Each district received a minimum 2% increase in aid, totally ignoring long-standing complaints about the financial inefficiency of the “hold harmless” feature of the state aid formula. Another way of describing this is a very expensive way of keeping all districts, irrespective of their ability to pay, happy with the results of the budget negotiations.

Foundation Aid Formula Developments:

During the legislative session ending in spring of 2023, advocates including the League argued that there should be a study of Foundation Aid’s formula funded in the budget and conducted within the New York State Department of Education, using consultants at a cost of \$1 million. Governor Hochul refused to fund the study. During the following legislative session ended in the spring of 2024, the Governor authorized a study to be conducted by and funded to support the Rockefeller Institute. In July of 2024, the League was invited to testify before the Rockefeller Institute’s experts. Our testimony went into detail about the problems with the regional cost index, stating that 1) there are too few regions and 2) the weightings of cost for the regions were not an accurate representation of relative education costs. In their final report, the Rockefeller Institute mentioned our recommendations. In this past year’s budget, a minor amendment was made to the Regional Cost Index that benefited only Westchester County’s region. This was NOT what we had in mind, and this will be work for next year. In addition, we pointed out a significant flaw in the so-called Poverty Index and recommended changes thereto. These changes were not implemented in the budget, and in fact the poverty index was made less advantageous for New York City students. This will be advocacy work we will continue in the coming budget year 2026-27.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report

Regina Tillman, Vice President for DEI

“The League’s vision is a democracy where every person has the desire, right, knowledge, and confidence to participate. For this vision to become a reality, we need DEI.”

–LWVUS CEO, Celina Stewart (Feb 2025)

To tell the truth, most of this past member year was spent on reassuring statewide membership that the core values of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility were not going anywhere! And while DEI was never easy, unfortunately in recent times, it was made more difficult with all there was to beat back... i.e., the impression that everyone - including corporations, institutions of higher learning, and nonprofits - was abandoning the implementation of DEI, that DEI was a target of the current administration so perhaps the League of Women Voters will need to back off to fly under the radar, or that we might want to give up on clarifying misunderstandings of DEI including that it does not demand the hiring of unqualified people, etc., etc.

Thus, Ms. Stewart’s quote as noted above could not have come at a better time. It reinforced that we indeed need to stay on course on this journey as was begun in 2018 with the *Transformational Roadmap*.

This year our energy was primarily expended into virtual meetings with local DEI Chairs/Directors and into getting the LWVNYS Biennial DEI Self Assessment Survey revised and distributed. I am pleased to say that, as of this writing, we have received approximately 20% more local League responses to that survey than collected in 2023. We congratulate the local Boards of Directors for their efforts to address their DEI successes and shortfalls even in these troubling times!

The upcoming State Voter will provide Leagues with access to the aggregated results so they can compare and additionally consider new ideas while formulating their organizational action plan for 2025-27 DEI outcomes. Our local DEI Chairs are being assigned to speak with each of the local chapters to help ensure accuracy in interpreting the survey results and give a hand as needed in creating their local plans. Our recently conducted “Virtual DEI Drop-In Meeting” indicated that so much more can be clarified and shared when we can speak directly with each other, so those will be scheduled more often in the next year.

Speakers for next year are already being lined up to share insights into what types of DEI-related actions can be taken within this next member year and to better understand the landscape within which we are operating. We also look forward to the 2025 award nominations for local DEI work to help serve as models of what is possible, regardless of monetary or personnel constraints. Our collective mantra into 2026 will continue to be: Remember! “DEI” is a Verb!

Our thanks, as well, to local DEI leadership! To those that are learning what impact such biases as misogyny, patriarchy, racism, classism, ableism, etc., can have on this country and on the group dynamics of our organization. Don’t see your name on the list below of local DEI Leaders? Many locations still require help from within - in that specific capacity - so consider speaking to your local League President about someone, or yourself taking on that mantle of leadership. You would be doing a great service in helping our organization become stronger, larger, and more influential as we help our country uphold this democracy as one that will continue to strive for inclusiveness. And be sure to connect with me as needed: rmt370@gmail.com.

***** Local Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Leaders *****

May 2025

Crystal Joseph... Co-Chair, LWVNYS DEI Committee // Westchester

Joanne Shawhan... Albany

Susan Ruff and Kimberly Felton... Broome/Tioga

Timothy Priano... Buffalo/Niagara

Mary Croxton... Chautauqua

Terry Wildrick... Hamptons/Shelter Island/North Fork

Sheila Bernson... New Castle
Laura Quigg, Sherletta McCaskill, and Karen Wharton... New York City
Nanette Melkonian... Oneonta
Tiffani Silverman... Rensselaer
Susan Weisfeld... Rivertowns
Barbara Grosh... Rochester Metro
Linda McKenney... Saratoga
Peggy McKenna... Smithtown
Leah Zerkowitz... St. Lawrence
Diane Doeblen... Stuber/Chemung
Karen Chisholm... Syracuse
Megan Nettleton... Tompkins
Carol Stone White... Utica/Rome

Local League Support Committee

Margie McIntosh, Chair

Regional Facilitators -

Capital Region - Pattie Garrett
Central Region - Kathy Stein
Long Island Region - Judy Gorenstein
Western NY/Southern Tier - Mary Croxton
Westchester and Rockland County - Jane Colvin

The entire committee is committed to the priority goal of giving local leagues the opportunity to support each other, share ideas, and collaborate. Facilitators host Zoom discussions for the five regions on a quarterly basis. Meetings are well attended by every local league, indicating that these meetings are extremely useful to the attendees. Reports of the meetings are only shared with the committee and also in advance of board meetings. We value the right of privacy and autonomy and do not want to stifle conversations that members might like to be kept within their regional group and respect their concerns.

It's very helpful to highlight both challenges/solutions and efforts/successes. While many leagues have common themes, each may have creative suggestions or unique challenges, which often leads to collaborations within each region as well as across the state. The human connections that are made within each group are invaluable relationships.

As a committee, we decided that we could act as a Communications Conduit to each of our regions, with a short reminder and possibly announcement list to be added to the agenda or just attached. This serves as a reinforcement about certain tasks/projects such as the VS survey or upcoming dates/deadlines, etc., as well as a notice of something new and maybe urgent.

We recognize and honor the right of each group to set its own agenda and do not intend this list to “take over” the limited time for discussion, although if it does, it must have been a timely topic. The committee also wants to encourage sharing to help increase visibility of leagues across the states with each other and outside. From time to time we might be asked to forward a specific issue or question to facilitators for dissemination to their respective groups. Their input can be invaluable to the State league and to all of us.

In challenging times, many local leagues are struggling with some common issues and some more than others. The regional meetings can be a “safe” place to express concerns and facilitators can bring those concerns to LWVNYS. Individual meetings can be arranged to help by answering questions, providing options, listening. Some have asked for privacy, so we respect that, until (or if) the time comes that we need to share with the Board. The relationships that have been made makes it so much easier to ask for help. Every League and every member deserves the right to thrive.

Some common and often ongoing discussion themes from the past year are:

1. Local Leadership, including succession
2. Nonpartisan efforts and guidance
3. Transformation process
4. Communications
5. Uncertainty
6. membership
7. Limited time - prioritizing time and efforts

Each League is reacting differently to these challenging times, but all are finding ways to be constructive and positive:

1. Recognizing the importance of focusing on Non-Partisan work to combat mis/disinformation and partnerships with other groups, while being cautious about which groups to work with.
2. Using this time as an “opportunity for impact” to reframe the message. Continuing business as usual, regarding civics, service to the community, SIA, local projects with high energy.
3. Setting priorities and working to stay strong, with positivity and good spirits.

4. Working to strengthen our Leagues, engage voters and protect our Democracy.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Continue to strengthen local leagues with communication and support, building upon the concept that getting to know one another and sharing can lead to increases in collaboration, productivity and success. Relationships are the key to achieving this goal.
2. Developing and distributing a new Member and new Board packet. Both can be in print as handouts and ppt presentations and online. This is to ensure that all members are aware of and adhere to central LWV policies, such as One Voice, Empty Chair, Non-Partisan, Member Rights and Responsibilities, etc. By clearly defining roles and vocabulary, this information could also lead to more engaged members, increased membership and leadership succession.

The general consensus of this past year is that in spite of outside noise and uncertainty, we are strong and ready for the future. We are an amazing group of committed individuals, with collective passion, creativity and unending resilience and positivity, especially when tested.

Membership of Local Leagues **2015-2025**

LEAGUE NAME	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Albany County	184	159	153	163	209	187	210	182	186	183	195
Allegany & Cattaraugus MAL Unit	0	0	0	20	29	40	41	33	30	34	42
Bronxville (disbanded)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brookhaven	67	63	63	69	84	82	95	77	80	96	70
Broome and Tioga Co.	100	93	97	97	92	84	67	65	59	59	55
Buffalo/Niagara	193	190	197	210	224	227	223	209	156	210	129
Cazenovia	24	29	32	32	33	35	39	31	36	36	17
Central Nassau	20	20	26	22	27	29	33	28	25	32	30
Chautauqua County	84	88	86	89	122	88	107	67	69	57	65
Chemung County (disbanded Jan 2021)	20	14	14	10	10	9	0	0	0	0	0
Columbia County (disbanded)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooperstown Area	35	47	67	84	92	91	81	77	102	99	102
Cortland County	23	28	31	29	31	25	22	23	25	30	32
East Nassau	51	45	47	39	45	47	48	42	45	39	39
Geneva	38	34	39	42	38	35	39	44	36	36	43
Great Neck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	13	18
Greater Oneida Area (disbanded 2018)	7	6	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton (disbanded)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamptons (name change 2019 to LWV of Hamptons,	125	116	119	117	126	144	134	112	103	97	101

Shelter Island and North Fork)											
Harrison (disbanded 2017)	39	35	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huntington	88	97	69	70	71	64	95	71	60	73	90
Larchmont/Mamaroneck	74	108	107	71	88	86	88	83	88	120	126
Long Beach (disbanded 2022)	31	33	41	10	16	18	11	6	0	0	0
LWVNYS MALs	36	33	31	52	68	17	11	11	9	6	8
Mid Hudson Region	92	92	86	120	141	127	142	153	160	153	168
New Castle	84	94	112	102	104	97	100	85	74	58	53
New Rochelle	59	45	56	51	38	58	69	49	60	36	34
New York City	223	217	275	350	350	289	303	268	275	229	219
North Country	43	40	42	33	33	31	50	44	40	47	53
North East Westchester	31	31	35	44	48	29	32	36	53	54	55
North West Westchester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	51
Oneonta (disbanded 2024)	38	41	35	36	32	33	10	10	25	17	0
Orange MAL Unit (disbanded)	0	0	0	0	0	17	18	0	0	0	0
Orleans County (disbanded)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Washington/Manhasset	128	100	118	132	135	105	113	116	104	105	89
Putnam County (disbanded 2023)	5	9	12	19	22	29	29	29	29	0	0
Rensselaer County	80	81	76	101	98	97	108	106	105	103	121
Rivertowns	75	86	89	99	101	115	114	110	105	93	115
Rochester Metro	145	139	137	138	164	141	163	149	120	126	182
Rockland County	37	27	32	32	29	23	20	21	24	41	70
Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester	57	47	54	43	45	43	50	41	45	36	32
Saratoga County	130	141	146	205	230	218	226	202	212	232	287
Saugerties (merged with Mid Hudson 2017)	17	15	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarsdale	216	205	201	209	188	192	175	159	176	104	159
Schenectady County	126	134	138	136	149	138	145	134	122	119	128
Schuyler (disbanded)	17	14	10	11	12	11	11	0	0	0	0
Shelter Island (merged with Hamptons 2019)	44	44	40	42	31	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smithtown	28	29	30	34	37	36	42	41	38	28	28
Somers (disbanded 2017)	87	94	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Westchester (disbanded)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwest Nassau (disbanded in 2022)	66	50	34	21	18	14	16	5	0	0	0
St. Lawrence MAL Unit	7	8	6	13	10	22	22	27	14	16	20
Steuben and Chemung Counties (2021)	25	26	26	18	18	18	16	15	16	24	21
Syracuse Metro.	90	71	69	73	76	80	91	94	104	94	105
Tompkins County	82	92	78	74	64	64	74	77	79	75	77
Utica Metro. Area	56	44	52	52	56	53	56	58	56	50	51
Warren County (disbanded 2018)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wayne (Disbanded)	10	10	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Plains	125	117	121	124	126	128	101	107	79	82	83
TOTALS	3462	3381	3442	3548	3760	3516	3640	3297	3245	3167	3363

Youth Task Force
Nick Doran, 4th Vice President

In the last two years, the LWVNYS continued its efforts to reach out to the next generation of civic leaders. During the term, we focused on a dual approach of registering youth and providing them with the educational tools to make their own informed decisions at the ballot box. There was also a big push to encourage local Leagues to partner with other organizations to engage students at their schools, colleges, and universities to spread the League’s nonpartisan skills and expertise to reach a group that the League has struggled to engage and recruit in the past.

We saw increased success in voter registration. On National Voter Registration Day in 2023 and 2024, at least 12 local Leagues held events across the state on college campuses to register college students (including LWV of Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties that held 20 events that day). LWVNYS provided stickers to all the Leagues who participated. In 2024, local Leagues conducted 177 voter registration events on college campuses, registering over 2,000 students. Leagues conducted an additional 104 voter registration drives in high schools to register over 3,000 students.

We presented in the regional workshops in 2024 on how to engage college students as an effort get local Leagues to think about how they can engage college students in addition to voter registration. The focus of the presentation is to use the NYS ERA to show students how NYS government works, be engaged in their communities, and advocate for an issue they care about. We provide a PowerPoint Leagues can use and/or customize. To accompany the PowerPoint, LWVNYS updated Citizen Lobbyist for a more modern look and revamped information. In addition, LWVNYS created a “How NYS Government Runs” pamphlet to provide to students as a primer on how the state’s government runs. The pamphlet covers the three branches of government as well as how a bill becomes law.

LWVNYS Financial Report **as of May 31, 2025**

	<u>Jul '24 - May '25</u>	<u>2024-2025 Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
4000 · Member Support		
4000-1 · PMP Income		
4001-1 · Transformation PMP	14,901.62	0.00
4000-1 · PMP Income - Other	29,307.92	29,520.50
Total 4000-1 · PMP Income	44,209.54	29,520.50
4002-1 · Memberships/Dues	4,137.41	5,085.00
4010-1 · Spec Gifts From Local Leagues	0.00	2,000.00
4016-1 · Board Contributions	0.00	1,000.00
4018-1 · Member Contributions	14,664.38	20,046.00
4025-1 · Community/Corporate Donations	22,398.12	0.00
4026 · In-Kind Donations	0.00	500.00
4150 · Direct Mail Income		
4151-1 · Direct Mail- Feb mailing	5,165.00	12,000.00
4154-1 · AF-June mailing	3,043.25	6,000.00
Total 4150 · Direct Mail Income	8,208.25	18,000.00
Total 4000 · Member Support	93,617.70	76,151.50
4110 · Development		
4111 · Election Night Reporting	3,735.00	0.00
Total 4110 · Development	3,735.00	0.00
4300 · State Meetings		
4300-1 · State Convention income	25,698.75	35,000.00
Total 4300 · State Meetings	25,698.75	35,000.00
4600 · Other Income		
4600-1 · Interest Income	3.79	0.00
Total 4600 · Other Income	3.79	0.00
Total Income	123,055.24	111,151.50
Gross Profit	123,055.24	111,151.50
Expense		
5000-1 · PMP National	1,368.00	1,368.00
5020-1 · Mal Unit Support	851.50	572.50
5120 · Projects/Programs Expenses	46,750.00	44,545.00
5130 · Advocacy Expenses	125.00	0.00
5132 · Legislative Agenda Brochures	0.00	500.00
5163 · Development Expenses-		
5163-1 · Revenue Share-ElectionNightRep.	3,375.00	0.00
Total 5163 · Development Expenses-	3,375.00	0.00
5200-2 · Administrative Expenses		

5701 · Miscellaneous expenses	738.25	0.00
5296 · Bank, CC & Merchant Fees		
5296-1 · Bank Fees	3.00	0.00
5296-6 · Credit Card & Merchant Pro Fees	2,472.32	600.00
Total 5296 · Bank, CC & Merchant Fees	2,475.32	600.00
5220 · Professional Fees		
5221-1 · Audit	5,600.00	7,000.00
5224 · Database & Acct Subs	1,897.20	0.00
5220 · Professional Fees - Other	0.00	8,336.00
Total 5220 · Professional Fees	7,497.20	15,336.00
5230 · Technology		
5230-1 · Repairs & Maintenance- Equip.	105.93	0.00
5230-2 · Website Hosting	24.00	0.00
5230-3 · Website Maintenance	0.00	1,500.00
5230-8 · Little Green Light (GiftWorks)	0.00	300.00
5230-7 · Outlook License (Old-Email)	0.00	450.00
5230-91 · Zoom	0.00	300.00
Total 5230 · Technology	129.93	2,550.00
5240 · Supplies		
5240 · Supplies	431.88	4,100.00
Total 5240 · Supplies	431.88	4,100.00
5250 · Postage	0.00	200.00
5265 · Travel	0.00	100.00
5266 · Facilities/Lodging/Meals	0.00	32,000.00
5269 · Dues, Fee & Subscriptions	1,119.64	650.00
5270 · Insurance		
5271-1 · Directors & Officers	305.25	330.00
5282-1 · General Liability Insurance	338.82	2,200.00
Total 5270 · Insurance	644.07	2,530.00
Total 5200-2 · Administrative Expenses	13,036.29	58,066.00
5280-1 · Rent Expense	3,300.00	3,600.00
5300 · Meetings		
5301-1 · State Convention/Council	450.00	2,000.00
5302-1 · National Convention/Council	394.71	0.00
5310-1 · Lobby Day - Expenses	0.00	500.00
Total 5300 · Meetings	844.71	2,500.00
Total Expense	69,650.50	111,151.50
Net Ordinary Income	53,404.74	0.00
Net Income	53,404.74	0.00

LWVNYS Balance Sheet
as of May 31, 2025

	May 31, 2025	May 31, 2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
Checking Account	78,673.56	4,230.91
Savings Account	11,897.36	12,376.51
Investment Accounts		
Accounts Receivable	2,159.73	802.11
Other Current Assets	748.52	1,049.93
Total Current Assets	93,479.17	18,459.46
Fixed Assets	-	-
Other Assets	-	-
Total Assets	93,479.17	18,459.46
Liabilities and Equity		
Total Liabilities	11,832.96	11,441.75
Equity		
Local League Members-At-Large	11,885.56	11,768.39
Retained Earnings	1,454.30	(4,248.98)
Net Income	68,306.35	(501.70)
Total Equity	81,646.21	7,017.71
Total Liabilities and Equity	93,479.17	18,459.46

LWVNYS Education Foundation Balance Sheet
as of May 31, 2025

	May 31, 2025	May 31, 2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
Checking Account	31,791.77	67,583.75
Savings Account	134,142.68	5,976.80
Investment Accounts		
Endowed Funds	992,091.19	913,058.23
Other Investment Accts	645,081.87	590,368.02
Accounts Receivable	7,668.85	5,729.45
Other Current Assets	1,257.55	1,632.03
Total Current Assets	1,812,033.91	1,584,348.28
Fixed Assets	-	-
Other Assets	174,267.56	177,326.73
Total Assets	1,986,301.47	1,761,675.01
Liabilities and Equity		
Total Liabilities	17,181.93	20,559.21
Equity		
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	173,541.32	173,541.32
Permanently Restricted	841,263.66	841,263.66
Unrestricted Fund Balance	721,479.82	681,085.08
Net Income	232,834.74	45,225.74
Total Equity	1,969,119.54	1,741,115.80
Total Liabilities and Equity	1,986,301.47	1,761,675.01

The League of Women Voters of New York State keeps local Leagues strong by:

ADVOCACY

- overseeing state studies for new or updated positions
- lobbying at the state level
- maintaining coalition partnerships with many organizations for stronger advocacy efforts
- coordinating Advocacy Education and Training Days for members statewide
- organizing conference calls on current issues open to all members statewide

EDUCATION

- funding for each local League to send one student free to Students Inside Albany
- providing speakers on current issues for community events
- developing ready-made educational PowerPoint presentations and briefing papers on various “hot topics” for community presentations and discussions

VOTER SERVICE

- paying license fees for all local Leagues and having staff support for www.vote411.org
- creating low-cost Voter Guides
- hosting statewide candidate events
- providing ready-made presentations on issues for statewide studies and voter education

SOCIAL MEDIA/VISIBILITY

- maintaining an up-to-date website with links and resources for running and promoting local Leagues
- supporting a Facebook page and “Liking” any Facebook page of our local Leagues
- sending State Board Updates and State Voters monthly and including local League news
- providing spokesperson to media statewide on state issues
- developing template Letters to the Editor for local Leagues to submit to local media

LEADERSHIP/TRAINING

- advising local Leagues on a one-on-one basis
- coordinating regional training workshops across the state
- organizing state Convention
- nurturing and giving start-up funding for MAL units

ADMINISTRATION

- hosting grants management accounts for each local League in state Education Foundation so you can accept 501©3 donations at no charge (some other state Leagues charge for this service)
- providing insurance for events held by local Leagues at no charge
- creating an easy local League online giving link you can use to accept tax-deductible donations online
- assisting some local Leagues in managing their finances
- seeking grants and other funding to share with local Leagues

2025 Convention Delegates

As of June 17, 2025

Marjorie	McIntosh	Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties MAL Unit
Christine	Florez	LWV of Albany County
Jen	McCormick	LWV of Albany County
Thomas	McKee	LWV of Albany County
Joanne	Shawhan	LWV of Albany County
Patricia	Silbia	LWV of Albany County
Britt	Westergard	LWV of Albany County
Elizabeth	Gardiner	LWV of Brookhaven
Janet	Skylar	LWV of Brookhaven
Nick	Doran	LWV of Broome and Tioga Co.
Carla	Michalak	LWV of Broome and Tioga Co.
Barbara	Gunderson	LWV of Buffalo/Niagara
Alberta	Roman	LWV of Buffalo/Niagara
Suzanne	Thomas	LWV of Buffalo/Niagara
Julie	Wise	LWV of Buffalo/Niagara
Ann	Leiter	LWV of Central Nassau
Nancy	Boynton	LWV of Chautauqua County
Mary	Croxton	LWV of Chautauqua County
Pat	Kirell	LWV of Chautauqua County
Patty	MacLeish	LWV of Cooperstown Area
Hudi	Podolsky	LWV of Cooperstown Area
Aviva	Schneider	LWV of Cooperstown Area
Laura	Wetzel	LWV of Cooperstown Area
Kim	Cameron	LWV of Cortland County
Patricia	diGiovanna	LWV of Cortland County

Barbara	Epstein	LWV of East Nassau; LWV of Geneva
Peggy	Stein	LWV of East Nassau
Judie	Gorenstein	Great Neck MAL Unit
Terese	Wildrick	LWV of Hamptons
Susan	Wilson	LWV of Hamptons
Janet Brevoort	Allen	LWV of Huntington
Barbara	Raisch	LWV of Huntington
Elizabeth	Radow	LWV of Larchmont/Mamaroneck
Cynthia	Bell	LWV of Mid Hudson Region
Dare	Thompson	LWV of Mid Hudson Region
Diane	Burrows	LWV of New York City
Lilly	McNally	LWV of New York City
Deborah	McManus	LWV of New York City
Kailyn	Ortiz	LWV of New York City
Lindsey	Reynolds	LWV of New York City
Kai	Rosenthal	LWV of New York City
Bella	Wang	LWV of New York City
Nancy	Agen	LWV of New York State
Jane	Colvin	LWV of New York State
Katherine	Doran	LWV of New York State
Nancy	Rosenthal	LWV of New York State
Teri	Lukin	Northwest Westchester MAL Unit
Judith B.	Esterquest	LWV of Port Washington/Manhasset
Regina	Goutevenier	LWV of Port Washington/Manhasset
Shirley	Buel	LWV of Rensselaer County
Joan	Rogers	LWV of Rensselaer County
Melissa	Iamonico	LWV of Rivertowns
Barbara	Grosh	LWV of Rochester Metro
Laurene	Jennings	LWV of Rochester Metro
Patricia	Willis	LWV of Rochester Metro
Lori	Dawson	LWV of Saratoga County
Pattie	Garrett	LWV of Saratoga County
Kimberly	Harvish	LWV of Saratoga County
Kathleen	Koebrich	LWV of Saratoga County
Linda	McKenney	LWV of Saratoga County
Ann Marie	Pendergast	LWV of Saratoga County
Carmen	Ross	LWV of Saratoga County
Bob	Stromberg	LWV of Saratoga County
Heedan	Chung	LWV of Scarsdale
Beth	Cukier	LWV of Scarsdale

Cynthia	Engel	LWV of Schenectady County
Kate	Rose	LWV of Schenectady County
Maria	LaMalfa	LWV of Smithtown
Michael	LaMalfa	LWV of Smithtown
June	Gordon	LWV of Steuben - Chemung
Karen	Chisholm	LWV of Syracuse Metro.
Diane	Luft	LWV of Syracuse Metro.
Dona	Wonacott	LWV of Syracuse Metro.
Lewellyne C	Blanchard	LWV Of Utica/Rome Metropolitan Area
Dianne	DiMeo	LWV Of Utica/Rome Metropolitan Area

Visitors and Observers

As of June 18, 2025

MaryKate	Owens	LWV of Albany County
Leslie	Simons	LWV of Mid Hudson Region
Rashmi	Miller	LWV of New Castle
Damara	Fredette	LWV of Saratoga County
Mandy	Herrington	LWV of Saratoga County
Dawn	LaGuerre	LWV of Utica/Rome Metropolitan Area

Volunteers

As of June 17, 2025

Laura	Bierman	LWV of Albany County
Pat	Maxon	LWV of Albany County
Deborah	Liebman	LWV of Albany County
Aimee	Allaud	LWV of Albany County
Lori	Robinson	LWV of Buffalo
Judie	Gorenstein	LWV of Huntington
Karen	Maher	LWV of Rensselaer County
Linda	McKenney	LWV of Saratoga County
Catherine	Cain	LWV of Saratoga County
Kathleen	Koebrich	LWV of Saratoga County
Joanna	Lasher	LWV of Saratoga County
Charle	Phillips	LWV of Saratoga County
Darnell	Rohrbaugh	LWV of Saratoga County
Barbara	Thomas	LWV of Saratoga County
Pat	Partello	LWV of Saratoga County

Cheryl	Nechamen	LWV of Schenectady County
Kai	Rosenthal	LWV of New York City
Lea	Mastorakis	LWV of New York City
Poorvi	Sakar	LWV of New York City

Parliamentarian

Laura	Bierman	LWV of Albany County
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Staff

Erica Smitka, Executive Director
Clyanna Lightbourn, Campaign Director
Xavia Francis, Program and Office Coordinator
Virginia Gokhale, Finance Administrator
Eliana Herzog, Intern