



BULLETIN

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

OUR MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, in both its values and practices, is committed to inclusion and diversity.

This means:

There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, political affiliation, national origin or disability.

We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

We believe inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of Saratoga County.

League Program Planning Pot Luck



LWVUS Program Update/Review

Jan. 12th, 2016, 5:30pm

United Methodist Church

175 Fifth Avenue

(corner of Henning Road & Fifth Ave), SS

Bring a dish to share

Beverages and dinnerware provided

The main purpose of this get together is to review current LWVUS positions (as found in *Impact on Issues* located at <http://lww.org/search/content/Impact%20on%20Issues>) in order to recommend to LWVUS that a position be updated, dropped, or a new study be undertaken. Decisions on these issues will be made at the national convention in June.

This is also a time to tell the board about local programs you'd be interested in attending.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance:

The Unfinished Business of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



A whole weekend of activities to honor the life of MLK.

See page 3 for the complete listing of events.

COMMON CORE: Past, Present, Future?

Panelists:

Dr. John Yagielski, School District Superintendent;

Maria Neira, Past Vice President, NYS United Teachers, bi-lingual teacher;

Mary Boyd Ratzer, Librarian, teacher trainer, educational author.

Q & A Session follows

Saturday, February 27, 1-3pm

Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park

Meet America's Trailblazing First Lady: Helen Nellie Taft

Details and RSVP Coupon on page 5.



**League of Women Voters
of Saratoga County (NY-639)**

Official address: LWV of Saratoga County
PO Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
www.lwvsaratoga.org (518) 728-5201

Steering Committee

September, October, November

Donna Dardaris
64 Middle St. Ballston Spa—884-9070

December, January, February

Mary Lou Classen
4 Blue Spruce Lane, Clifton Park—877-8874

March, April, May

Darnell Rohrbaugh, Chair, Youth Programs
6 Almeria Drive, Clifton Park—371-2588

June, July, August

Nancy Martinez—Membership Chair
4 Equestrian Lane, Apt.8, Saratoga Springs—281-1185

Secretary

Kathleen Koebrich
718 Malta Ave. Ext, Malta, NY —587-3616

Treasurer

Steven Koebrich
718 Malta Ave.. Ext, Malta, NY —587-3616

Directors

Kathleen Donahue
51 Hampton Circle, Mechanicville, NY 12118
541-3387

Charlotte Druschel

27 Paisley Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020
885-8986

Louise Golub, Chair, Action & Issues
10 Hathorn St., Saratoga Springs—584-7518

Tim Holmes

3 Collins Terrace, Saratoga Springs—587-9499

Ann Kril, Chair, Voter Services
60 Hillcrest Dr., Saratoga Springs—584-1436

Schedule of LWVSC Board Meetings

United Methodist Church, Henning Road, SS
7—9pm 1st Wednesday of each month

All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

**League of Women Voters of New York State or
League of Women Voters of New York State
Education Foundation**

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207
465-4162 www.lwvny.org

president: **Dare Thompson**, darethompson@gmail.com

Executive Director: **Laura Bierman**, laura@lwvny.org

Communication & Development Coordinator:

Kate Jankowski, kate@lwvny.org

Public Policy Specialist

Jennifer Wilson, jenniferlwv.org

Bookkeeping & Finance Manager

Lisa Allendorph, lisa@lwvny.org

League of Women Voters of the United States
1730 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-4508
202-429-1965 www.lwv.org



From the Steering Committee

Happy New Year to everyone!

The first half of the League year under Nancy Martinez and Donna Dardaris was extremely busy. We accomplished many great things. We helped put on a play (The Stone That Started the Ripple) written by Pat Nugent. This was well attended. We then went on to do several Voter Services projects. We held many voter registration events under the direction of Janice Burns. Ann Kril was in charge of several well attended candidate events. Thanks to all of them.

Next we held three, count them, consensus events!. Two were for National League and one for the State League. Kathy Koebrich and committee presented the consensus program on a national Constitutional Amendment or Article V convention. Barb Thomas and committee presented a program to adopt the Ohio concurrence on Raise the Age for New York State. Lastly, I and my committee presented the Money in Politics consensus material. All programs were well attended and all material and positions were discussed in true League style. For anyone who missed the meetings, videos of the Constitutional Amendment program and Raise the Age program are on our website.

Now we move on to 2016. First up is our semi-annual National program planning meeting. It is a pot luck supper at the Saratoga Springs Methodist Church. Information is elsewhere in the bulletin. Please come with your suggestions. Next we have several people on the Martin Luther King weekend planning committee and they would like our help and attendance at any of the events.

A meeting on the Common Core: Past, Present, Future? is planned for Feb. 27th at the Clifton Park/Halfmoon library. Darnell Rohrbaugh and Kathleen Donahue have lined up a panel of former educators to present this program.

A State League workshop is planned for March 12th at Corpus Christi Church (Rt. 9 & Ushers Road). Watch mail chimp and our website for more details on this.

Lastly, we are working on a fund raiser for March 19th. Find out why Nellie Taft is known as a trailblazer. More on page 5.

Whew! Stay tuned and please try to attend as many events as possible.

In League,
Mary Lou

Thanks to our Contributor

Anne Wasielewski



MARTIN LUTHER KING JANUARY EVENTS

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend Events 2016 *The Unfinished Work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Friday, January 15, at 6:30 pm. We will kick off the MLK weekend with the Dr. King Challenge: **"Speak up and sing out against racial and social injustice!"** with opening reception and film event (American Denial) at 7 pm, followed by music and spoken word performances featuring the Heavenly Echoes, JV & the Cutters, Soul Rebel, D Colin, Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius, Terri Roben and others. Events take place at the Saratoga Film Forum, 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Suggested donation, \$10.

Sunday, January 17, 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The emphasis will be on mass incarceration and racial inequality. Meta Theatre Company will perform excerpts from ***HELLO MY NAME IS . . .***, a play co-written with inmates of New Jersey's only female prison. The Meta Theatre Company creates live performance for communities to share experiences, heal and grow. Also on the program is *Inside-Out: Poets Reading from the Experience of Incarceration*. Panelists will react to the performance and lead a discussion. This program takes place at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. Free.

Monday, January 18 Saratoga Spring's **Day of Service** will begin at 10 am for Code Blue Required Volunteer Training (located at the Salvation Army, 27 Woodlawn Ave) and MoonCatchers Project (Temple Sinai, 509 Broadway); Youth Squared and Thinkpeace, Inc will have projects at the Public Library. In order to volunteer at Code Blue at some date this winter you must complete a volunteer training. For more information and to register for projects, come to library at 9:30 am. You may go directly to Code Blue or MoonCatchers without registering at the library. All volunteers are invited for free community lunch at Code Blue/Salvation Army 12-1pm. (Many LWV members have volunteered to help serve and clean up from this lunch.)

Monday, January 18, 1:30pm

The Official Observance of MLK Day at the SS Public Library will feature thought provoking performances by the Meta Theatre Company, a key-note talk by Karen Gaffney, the Arbor Hill Starlites stepping team, short dramatic vignettes by SHYfT (Saratoga's Humanitarian Youth for Transformation). Garland Nelson (of Soul Session) will be the MC and lead the musical program. Free.

Meta Theatre Company's mission is to create work around the issues of white privilege, race, class, gender and sexual orientation, and provide audiences a context to create social change in their communities. Karen Gaffney, Professor of English at Raritan Valley Community College has worked with the Meta Theatre Company.

"There are so many events planned for this year's observance of Martin Luther King's unfinished business! There is surely something for everyone in the community," says Dora Lee Stanley, long-time member of the MLK Planning Committee and the League of Women Voters.

LWV Saratoga is a co-sponsor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance.

League members Dora Lee Stanley, Carol Schupp Star and Barbara Thomas are half of the Martin Luther King Planning Committee. Support their work, and racial and economic inclusion, by attending at least one of the MLK events.

We thank in advance those League members who have volunteered to help out on the 18th: **Margot Ammon, Janice Burns, Helen Crawshaw, Donna Dardaris, Joan Disare, Cherie Grey, Louise Golub, Ann Kril, Josie Pasciullo, Barbara Stamas, Elizabeth Rossi.**

WANT PAID FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE?

- Get signatures on the petition that came with the State Board Report.
- Go to the PFLI Lobby Day February 2nd
Questions? Car Pooling?
Call Barb Thomas 681-7530.

RAISE THE AGE



L-R: Malta Town Justice James Fauci, Paige Pierce of Families Together, Barb Thomas, Chair, Karin Carreau of the National Association of Social Workers.

Consensus revealed:

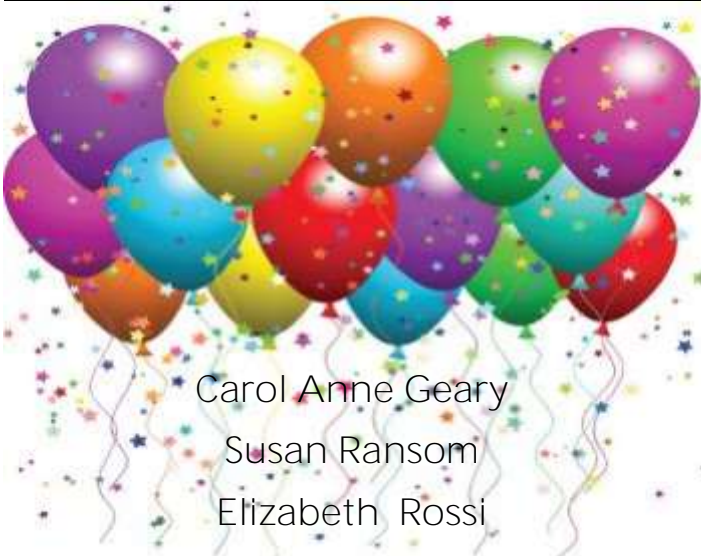
We were dismayed to find out that under the current justice system:

- 16 & 17 year olds aren't always allowed to call their parents if they are arrested.
- Youth with mental and emotional problems don't always get their medications.

And pleased to find out:

- In Saratoga County our District Attorney usually takes a rehabilitative approach to teens and seldom charges to the maximum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Carol Anne Geary

Susan Ransom

Elizabeth Rossi

Erika Tebbens

Alice and Bob Townsend

Joanna Zangrando

STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

By Isaac Smith



It's time for students to start applying to the Students Inside Albany (SIA) program. The applications are on our website, www.lwvsaratoga.org. If you know a high school junior, please spread the word.

Students Inside Albany is a very successful LWVNY program that brings together high school students from across the state to learn about how state government works, what citizens can do to influence government, and lets them shadow their state senator or representative. Saratoga County students who attend the program receive a one-year student membership to our League.

Note: This year we are very fortunate and excited to have one of our former student attendees chair our SIA committee. Isaac Smith attended last year's SIA program. He enjoyed it so much that he wanted to be part of the planning process and make sure that other students find out about the program and get an opportunity to attend. "Thank you, Isaac, for using your enthusiasm and learned skills to give back to the LWV," says Darnell Rohrbaugh.

2016 SIA Conference: May 22-25, 2016

Application Deadline: Jan. 25, 2016

Screening of the feature film, *Suffragette*

This program was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Pattie Garret and her committee. We had a full house at the theatre, and got lots of great publicity. People really enjoyed the program.

Training Workshops

The state League is offering training workshops for all League members in 4 locations around the state on Saturdays during March and April, 2016. These workshops will cover many aspects of local League management, as well as advocacy, current issues and more. All members are invited to attend the one for our region on March 12 at Corpus Christi Church, Exit 10 of the Northway.

HAVE BREAKFAST WITH AMERICA'S TRAILBLAZING FIRST LADY

**ON MARCH 19th, MEET
AMERICA'S
TRAILBLAZING
FIRST LADY
HELEN "NELLIE" TAFT**

Gideon Putnam Hotel
Arches Room
9am



Lezlie Dana is Nellie Taft

A special presentation for the League of
Women Voters of Saratoga County!

Our FAMOUS PERSON FUNDRAISER on March 19th, 2016
CLIP & SEND by MARCH 5th WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: LWNYSF.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE _____

HOW MANY _____ Educator @ \$55.= \$ _____

_____ Political Advisor @ \$75.= \$ _____

_____ FIRST LADY @ \$100 = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

I can't attend but here's my contribution: \$ _____

All contributions are tax deductible

MAIL TO: Steven Koebrich, 718 Malta Ave. Ext.,
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

HOLIDAY PARTY



League members, spouses and friends gathered at the Holiday Inn on December 16 for a strictly social occasion. Good food, lots of chatting and sharing of Holiday goodwill. Can you name everyone in these pictures?



MONEY IN POLITICS

Our committee for this consensus meeting (Mary Lou Classen, Chair, Cliff Ammon, Donna Dardaris, Charlotte Druschel, Kathy Koebrich, Terry Lowenthal, Francine Rodger, Darnell Rohrbaugh) did such a good job of presenting the materials that they have been invited to present to the Albany LWV on January 24. If you missed the first presentation you are welcome to attend the Albany program.

Along with other Leagues across the country, we were discussing the best ways to respond to Citizen's United and the rise of Super PACs.



LWVSC BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, January 13th, 1:30pm

Book: *A Land of Hard Edges* by Peg Bowden

Link to videotaped talk by Peggy Bowden is on our website. (www.lwvsaratoga.org)

Saratoga Springs Public Library, Glasby Room
49 Henry St., Saratoga Springs, NY

Wednesday, February 10, 1:30

Book: *The Jefferson Rule: How the Founding Fathers Became Infallible and Our Politics Inflexible* by David Sehat

Link to videotaped interview with historian David Sehat is on our website. It's about "The Jefferson Rule," the unspoken conviction that any proposal or policy must be associated with and justified by the Founding Fathers.

Clifton Park - Half Moon Public Library
475 Moe Rd, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Everyone is welcome even if you haven't had time to read the book.



HELP WANTED

All positions receive compensation in the form of gratitude. Contact info for board members is on page 2.

THEATRICAL AGENT...



...to schedule
Suffragist performances
Contact Nancy Martinez

Custodial Help,

part-time
Set out chairs at events,

Contact Nancy Martinez

Grant Writer

Work from home. Able to take rejection and rejoice in success.
Contact aerodger@aol.com

Community Give Back Night Coordinator

- Contact local restaurants and organize monthly give back nights.
- Support LWV Saratoga County Youth Programs.
- This is a fun way to interact with local restaurant managers and to arrange FUN fund raising events.
- Arrange for these "Dine for the League" Community Give Back events.
- Contact Kathy Koebrich at 587-3616 or k718malta@hotmail.com for more details



SALES REP

Sell the League to the public at one of our tables
no experience necessary, contact Nancy Martinez



FUNDRAISER

Able to develop contacts, maintain communication ...
contact Donna Dardaris

Project Coordinator

Students Inside Albany

Recruit, screen and select students
December-through March, Contact Darnell
Rohrbaugh

Greeters Needed
Must be friendly, able to attend League events

Contact:
Nancy Martinez 584-7971



JOIN US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- o YES! I Would like to join the League.
- o 2016 dues enclosed.
- (Note: The Bulletin is free with membership)
- o \$55. Individual o \$80 Family o \$25 Student
- o Please send more information
- o I would like to subscribe to the BULLETIN, \$15. enclosed
- o In addition, I would like to contribute \$_____
- o Please send a gift membership to: enclose name and address

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

oCheck if you would prefer an electronic Bulletin

Mail to: Membership, League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



**THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF SARATOGA COUNTY**
P.O. BOX 1029 SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

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JAN/FEB 2016

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CONTENTS

Program Planning Pot Luck, MLK Events,
Common Core, Meet Nellie Taft.....1
Steering Lead Report, Contributor.....2
MLK January Events, Paid Family Leave3
Students Inside Albany, Raise the Age, New
Members, Training workshops, Screening of
Suffragette4
Nellie Taft Fundraiser and RSVP.....5
Book Club, Money in Politics,
Holiday Party,6
Join us, Help Wanted7
Upcoming Events,8

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 12, Tuesday, **LWVUS Program Update/Review & Potluck**, Methodist Church, SS,
5:30pm
- January 15, Friday, **MLK: Reception, *American Denial* (film) plus music and spoken word
performances**, Saratoga Film Forum, 6:30pm
- January 17, Sunday, **MLK: Mass Incarceration and Injustice**, SSPL, 2-4 pm
- January 18, Monday, **MLK: Day of Service**, 3 locations, 9:30am – 1pm (including lunch)
- January 18, Monday, **MLK: *The Unfinished Business of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***, SSPL,
1:30 – 4pm
- February 2, Tuesday, **Paid Family Leave Lobby Day**, Albany
- February 27, Saturday, **Common Core: Past, PresentFuture**, Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library,
1 – 3pm
- March 19, Saturday, **Meet America’s Trailblazing First Lady, Nellie Taft!** Gideon Putnam
Hotel, 9am—noon, \$55.