



BULLETIN

MARCH 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.

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, Breakfast



RSVP by March 5th. Coupon on page 5.



TRAINING WORKSHOP

The state League is offering training workshops for ALL League members, covering many aspects of local League activities, such as: *Best Practices for Candidate Forums – Issues and Activism – Local Programs that Have Had Influence in Our Communities -*

Creative Fundraising – How to Use Women's Suffrage and League Centennials to Raise Visibility and Money -Coordination with Organ Donor Organizations to Increase Voter and Organ Donor Registrations Vote 411 Troubleshooting – Shared Advice and Learning Together Get Out the Vote – Ways to Increase Voter Participation -Visibility, Diversity, Membership, Program and Money – All are Connected.

Send \$5 check payable to LWVNYS to League of Women Voters of NYS, 62 Grand St, Albany, NY 12207. Or register by phone 518-465-4162, with credit card. Lunch provided.

Corpus Christi Church, Northway Exit 10 ,Saturday March 12 , 10-3



**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

March, April, May

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

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

June, July, August

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Steven Koeblich
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, jennifer@lwv.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



*From the Steering Committee
leader*

The last two months have been active and productive for the members of the Saratoga County League. In January, we had our semi-annual national program planning meeting. It was very well attended and we agreed to support National's suggestion to not do any new studies but concentrate all efforts on the program "Making Democracy Work". We also agreed to support the recommendation of the LWV of Tacoma-Pierce County, Washington to update the Global Climate Change position.

The next five weeks will be extremely busy.

Our Common Core program is(was) planned for Feb. 27, at the Clifton Park library.

On Feb.29, the movie *Fix-It*, about our health care system from a businessman's perspective, will be(was) shown at the Saratoga Springs Library. Two shows at 3pm and 7pm followed by a discussion facilitated by Dr. David Ray, Chair, Capital District Chapter, Physicians for a National Health Program, and member, Capital District Alliance for Universal Healthcare. The energetic committee, headed by Helen Crawshaw, includes Betty Gallagher, Patricia Reed and Laura Chodos. Thanks ladies.

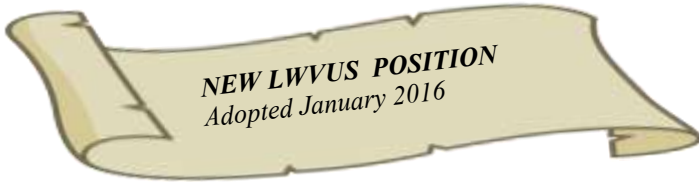
The State League is holding their semi-annual workshop in our county. It is at Corpus Christi Church on March 12, 2016, from 10am to 4pm. There is still time to sign up. This is for all members, not just the board. Please go on the lwvny.org website and sign up. Support our league, as they are bringing the workshop to us this time. Always something to learn for all of us.

Finally, our famous person fundraiser is March 19th at the Gideon Putnam. Our guest from the past is Helen "Nellie" Taft. It should be very informative and a lot of fun. Invite all of your friends. The flyer is on our website for easy emailing to your friends.

On Friday, February 12th, members of the board and membership committee hosted a potluck supper for new members at Ann Kril's house. (Unfortunately minus Ann Kril)! Eight new members joined us and we TRIED to give them information on exactly what the League is and does! (Pretty big job!) Darnell did a great job explaining things. The rest of us chimed in, as I am sure you all can imagine. We are not a quiet bunch! I think it went very well and hope all the new members went away with a greater understanding of what we do and will join us at many future events and help with anything they can.

In League,

Mary Lou



Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

The League will only support a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution if it advances and conforms to an LWVUS position.

In addition, the League believes the following should be considered in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted constitutional amendment:

a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed. Amendments are changes to a document that provides stability to our system and should be undertaken to address extreme problems or long-term needs.

b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective. Amendments that may be unenforceable, miss the objective, or have unintended consequences may not achieve the policy objective.

c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights. Most adopted amendments have sought to make our system more representative or to protect the rights of minorities.

d) Whether the public policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment. In order to expend resources wisely, it is important to consider whether legislation or political action is more likely to succeed than an amendment.

e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach. It is important to consider whether the goal can best be achieved by an overall value statement, which will be interpreted by the courts, or with specific statutory detail to resolve important issues and reduce ambiguity.



Nominating Committee Seeks Recommendations for the Board

The Nominating Committee seeks members who wish to be considered for positions on the Board of Directors of the LWV of Saratoga County.

Serving on the board is an experience to remember: rewarding, challenging, satisfying, demanding and fun. You will be able to: build your leadership skills; use your skills to make things happen for the League and for your community; help to set the direction for the LWV of Saratoga County; share your League successes with other Leagues; and expand your commitment to the League.

If this sounds like an opportunity you, or someone you know, might want to pursue, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Cherie Grey, Tim Holmes, Nancy Martinez, Carol Schupp Star or Lori Dawson, Chair.

Contact information for all Nominating Committee members is listed in the membership list.

We Need Your Input!



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**

Thanks to a Contributor

Stewart's Shops

The 4R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

A public forum on recycling and landfills

This is a continuation and update of the position the League of Women Voters took years ago when the topic of municipal recycling was new. The situation has been changing over the years and more things can be recycled than ever before. Still, it can be confusing. Do you know what to do with the stuff you are discarding? What really happens after you put out your cans?

This forum is co-sponsored by Sustainable Saratoga with help from Skidmore students. Bring an item you don't know what to do with (or just bring your question). Come to our forum the evening of **April 26th, 6:30pm** at Skidmore (the exact room is still TBA, check our website at the end of March).

Learn how single stream works and find out about the challenges with recycling and landfills.



LWVSC BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets at 1:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at various locations.

All League members are welcome to attend these discussions, so come when you can. You will always be welcome. Members who have suggestions for future books are asked to send your suggestions to Francine Rodger.

- **March** "Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few" by Robert Reich, Saratoga Springs Library.
- **April** "When Women Win: EMILY's List and the Rise of Women in American Politics" by Ellen Malcolm, Craig Unger. Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library.
- **May** "Political Animals: How Our Stone-Age Brain Gets in the Way of Smart Politics" by Rick Shenkman.
- **June** Wrap up Luncheon, 34 Hemlock Drive, Clifton Park, Select books for next year.

FIRST VOTE UPDATE

Most high school students turn 18 years old, in or soon after, their senior year in high school. Research shows that if young people vote in the first election after they are eligible to vote, they are likely to continue voting. If they do not register and vote at age 18, they will probably not start voting until they are much older, well established in their careers, and have a family. The young peoples' voter turnout rate is the lowest rate in our state of extremely low voting rates. New York ranks 49 out of the 50 states in voter turnout at the poles.

LWV of Saratoga County is encouraging our youth to start voting at 18. This year we have supplied voting materials for 1650 seniors in 10 county high schools. Three high schools were not interested in receiving the materials. Each school got copies of NYS voter registration forms and two league booklets, "First Vote- A Guide for New Voters in NYS" and "Your Right to Vote in NY State- College Students." These materials were delivered to the teachers of the Principles in Government classes. This is a class required for all high school seniors. The materials are supplied free to the high schools because of contributions to the league's education fund from members and supporters.

We give a big THANK YOU to everyone who made a contribution to the education fund to support this youth program. Thank you also goes to Marian Bigelow and her First Vote committee, Helen and Bill Crawshaw, Donna Dardaris and Darnell Rohrbaugh. If you know a young person, encourage them to register and vote.



Want Paid Family Leave?

Write a letter to the Editor telling people why it was (or would have been) important to have it. For example, you lost your job when you took the time off to care for a family member who had been in an accident; you took the unpaid time off when your spouse had a stroke and then you fell behind in the mortgage; you had twins and needed the time to establish breastfeeding, etc., etc.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Joanne Smith
Domenique Collins Yermolayev
Welcome Back Janet "Jaye" Kuczynski

STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

The committee and I are happy to announce that two students have been selected to attend the Students Inside Albany Conference this May!

Our applicants this year include students from five school districts and also a homeschool.

All six committee members scored each of the students in nine categories, including writing ability, reference quality, and the quality of extracurricular activities in civics.

Our winners will be officially announced in the April Bulletin.



LEZLIE

RSVP by MARCH 5th

Lezlie Dana is Nellie Taft

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



NELLIE

BREAKFAST BUFFET: 9:00am - 10:30am

Whole Fruit & Fruit Salad, Danish Pastry & Coffee Cakes, Breakfast Breads & Muffins, Bagels & Cream Cheese, Yogurt, Granola & Cereal, Scrambled Eggs, Roasted Breakfast Potato Medley, Smoked Bacon, Pork Link Sausage, Cinnamon Swirl French Toast, Belgian Waffles Coffee, Tea, Decaf and Assorted Fresh Fruit Juices

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE _____

HOW MANY _____ Educator @ \$55.= \$ _____ I can't attend but here's my contribution: \$ _____

_____ Political Advisor @ \$75.= \$ _____ All contributions are tax deductible

_____ FIRST LADY @ \$100 = \$ _____ **MAIL TO:** Steven Koebrich, 718 Malta Ave. Ext.,

TOTAL \$ _____ Ballston Spa, NY 12020

**NEW LWVUS
POSITION**
Adopted January 2016

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution

The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. The League believes such a convention should be called only if the following conditions are in place:

- The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on;
- Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed. The delegates represent citizens, should be elected by them, and must be distributed by U.S. population;
- Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes;
- The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic. It is important to guard against a "runaway convention" which considers multiple issues or topics that were not initiated by the states;
- Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called. Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process; and
- The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission must be respected by Congress.

The League supports a Living Wage that provides sufficient income without government assistance, for food, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, health care, education, child care, and a small amount of discretionary income.

Therefore, the League supports efforts to
Increase the Minimum Wage to \$15.

TWO FANTASTIC LEAGUE EVENTS IN ALBANY

For your listening pleasure

MARCH 9

"Use Your Voice Tour" with Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell Wednesday, March 9, 8PM @ The Egg

An evening of modern American folk music and a special promotion of League of Women Voters and Voter Participation with Grammy-award winning Patty Griffin and acclaimed singer-songwriters, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell. "Use your Voice" is a 39-city tour the artists have chosen to use their voices and music to promote the League's work and the importance of voter participation in 2016.



MARCH 20

Elizabeth Cady Stanton's 200th Birthday – "Declaration of Sentiments" Sunday, March 20, 3PM @ Druthers Brewery

Music by American women composers and a special world premiere commissioned work for chorus, vocal soloists and string quartet. "Declaration of Sentiments", Elizabeth Cady Stanton's document on women's rights presented at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1948 will be read by Elaine Houston. The Musicians of Ma'alwyck, Siena College and the League of Women Voters of NYS join forces to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's birth.

Druthers Brewery, 1053 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204 Admission: \$15 Order tickets: <http://www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org/tickets/>

Visit www.lwvny.org

to see all the different issues the League has been lobbying for – from early voting to education finance to paid family leave to transportation infrastructure.

**New LWV Saratoga Phone #
518-728-5201**



HELP WANTED

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

Community Give Back Night Coordinator

- Contact local restaurants to arrange for "Dine for the League" Community Give Back events.
- This is a way to arrange FUN fundraising events and support LWV Saratoga County Youth Programs.
- Contact Kathy Koebrich at 587-3616 or k718malta@hotmail.com for more details

Grant Writer

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



WANTED!



Back-up computer person for Vote411. Learn the job under the tutelage of Francine Rodger. Contact Francine at aerodger@aol.com ASAP.

School board candidate information will need to be posted in April.

SAVE THE DATE

for the LWV Annual Meeting!
Saturday morning, June 4,
at The Edison Club. Details TBA

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 Darnell Rohrbaugh

Greeters Needed

Must be friendly, able to attend League events

Contact: Nancy Martinez 281-1185

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

MARCH 2016

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 27, Saturday, Common Core: Myth vs. Truth, Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library, 1 – 3pm**
- February 29, Monday, *FixIt, Healthcare at the Tipping Point*, two showings with discussion, SSPL, 3pm & 7pm.**
- March 9, Wednesday, “Use Your Voice Tour” with Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell @ The Egg, 8pm**
- March 12, Saturday, LWVNY Regional Workshops, Corpus Christi Church, Northway Exit 10, 10am-3pm.**
- March 19, Saturday, Breakfast with Nellie Taft, Gideon Putnam Hotel, 9-noon, RSVP by March 5, see page 5.**
- March 20, Sunday, Elizabeth Cady Stanton's 200th Birthday – “Declaration of Sentiments” Sunday, @ Druthers Brewery, 3pm.**
- April 13, Wednesday, Book Club, Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library, 1:30 pm**
- April 26, Tuesday, The 4 Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Skidmore College (Room TBA), 6:30pm**
- June 4, Saturday, Annual Meeting, The Edison Club, morning**