

# LWV NEWSLETTER

## CONTENTS

100th Anniversary .....3  
 Board List .....2  
 Book Club .....6  
 Calendar .....12  
 Constitutional Convention? .....5  
 Contributors .....11  
 Electoral Dysfunction .....1  
 Holiday Party .....6  
 Ice Cream Socia .....81  
 In Memorium.....5  
 Join LWV Saratoga .....3  
 Live Streaming on FaceBook.....10  
 LWV Videos.....10  
 LWVNY Convention Prep...3  
 MLK Celebration.....5  
 National Voter Registration Day .....7  
 New Members.....11  
 Newsletter News .....6  
 Parking Cars @ Saratogian .....10  
 Take Me To Vote .....4

### *While the election is still fresh in your mind...*

Join us for a screening of Electoral Dysfunction, a feature-length documentary (Running time 1:27:34), that uses humor and wit to take an irreverent—but nonpartisan—look at voting in America. The movie will start at 7pm sharp, at the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library, on Monday, November 14 and will be followed by a very short discussion.

This lighthearted, colorful, nonpartisan documentary ... lives up to its title, exploring problems of nationwide accessibility and fairness...” — The New York Times.



Mo Rocca and some young friends explain how the U.S. elects the president in the PBS documentary Electoral Dysfunction. After making the eye-opening discovery that the right to vote is missing from the Constitution, political humorist Mo Rocca sets out on a road trip to see how voting works - and doesn't work - in America. He heads to Indiana, home to some of the strictest election laws in the country, and meets two feisty Hoosiers - Democrat Mike Marshall and Republican Dee Dee Benkie - who take him inside their efforts to get out every vote.

### **NYS Assembly and Senate: Longer Terms? Staggered terms? Limits on Lulus?**

*By Barb Thomas*

On Monday evening, November 21, we will be meeting in the Community Room of the Saratoga Springs Public Library to participate in an Update the LWVNY position on NYS Legislative Procedures.

We will be trying to reach consensus on how long the Assembly and Senate terms should be; whether those terms should be staggered; whether it is important for legislators to be elected by the people in a newly redistricted district; whether there should be term limits for the

*continued on next page*

## Assembly and Senate

Assembly and Senate leaders, for committee chairs; whether there should be limits on outside income.

The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years (in the year ending in zero) and then redistricting must be completed by the general election in years ending in 2. This enables legislators to take office on January 1 of the following year.

One question is whether it is important that all legislators be chosen by the people living in their districts. If your answer is “yes” then all legislators would have to be elected in years ending in 2. If your answer is “no” then it would be possible to stagger terms, if you think that is more important.

We will be asked to say whether we prefer lengthened terms and what length of term we would suggest. Think two 5-year terms, or terms of 3, 3, 4, or 4, 6 or one 10-year term. All of these combinations have the virtue of ending every ten years. Or you might prefer 4-year terms and not care about reapportioned districts.

Given the recent conviction of the Senate Majority Leader and the Assembly Speaker many people think it would be wise to limit the number of terms they can hold those positions. What do you think? Does the same go for committee chairs? What about how much outside income legislators should be allowed to earn?

Join us to discuss these issues and reach some conclusions. We'll be serving light refreshments starting at 6pm.

## CONTACT US

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

Official address: LWV of Saratoga County  
PO Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
518-728-5201

[www.lwvsaratoga.org](http://www.lwvsaratoga.org)

Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/lwvsaratoga](http://www.facebook.com/lwvsaratoga)  
and on Twitter @LWV\_SC

### **Steering Committee:**

*September, October, November:* Darnell Rohrbaugh,  
Chair, Youth Programs, 6 Almeria Drive, Clifton  
Park, 12065 —371-2588

*December, January, February:* Mary Lou Classen, 4  
Blue Spruce Lane, Clifton Park—877-8874

*March, April, May:* Barbara Thomas, PO Box 964,  
Saratoga Springs, 518-681-7530

*June, July, August:* Pattie Garrett, 537 Union Street,  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, 496-4973

*Secretary:* Kathleen Koebrich, 718 Malta Ave. Ext,  
Malta, NY 12020, 587-3616

*Treasurer:* Steven Koebrich, 718 Malta Ave. Ext,  
Malta, NY, 12020, 587-3616

### **Directors:**

Charlotte Druschel, 27 Paisley Road, Ballston Spa,  
NY 12020, 885-8986;

Carol Glansberg, 62 Kent Street, Ballston Spa,  
12020, 210-7743

Louise Golub, Chair, Action & Issues, 10 Hathorn  
St., Saratoga Springs, 12866, 584-7518;

Ann Kril, Chair, Voters' Services, 60 Hillcrest Drive,  
Saratoga Springs, 12866, 584-1436

Terry Lowenthal, 12 Mystic Lane, Saratoga Springs,  
12866, 587-2516

### **Off Board Chairs:**

Nancy Martinez, Membership, 4 Equestrian Lane,  
Apt.8, Saratoga Springs, 12866, 281-1185

Francine Rodger, Vote411, 36 Hemlock Drive,  
Clifton Park, 12065 – 371-4011

*The LWV of Saratoga County does not support  
or oppose any candidate or political party. We  
sometimes take positions on issues and issues are  
non-partisan. This has been the League's policy  
for 96 years.*

# Getting Ready for Our 100th Anniversary



*by Pattie Garrett*

**N**ext year marks New York State's centennial anniversary for women's suffrage. Women in New York got the vote three years prior to the passage of the 19th amendment. In preparation for our anniversary, Barb Thomas and I attended Women's Suffrage Centennial Conference in Seneca Falls. We joined others from across the state, including teachers, authors, tourism representatives, museum staff, and other league members. The keynote speaker was Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, who committed the State's support.

We learned about the NYS museum's plan for an exhibit on Women's Suffrage. The museum is busy collecting relics and material in preparation for the opening in November 2017. The League of Women Voters of NYS is a partner and lent several artifacts to the museum. There will be a traveling panel display featuring many of the items from the exhibit. The NYS Council for the Humanities has speakers and grants

to support activities focusing on the anniversary. The State is gearing up for an incredible anniversary.

We met many interesting people, heard inspiring presentations, and left Seneca Falls ready to get started on the celebrations.

There is much more. So stay tuned and get involved. If you're interested in getting involved in the celebrations, call Barb or Pattie.

100th Anniversary Dates to keep in mind as we embark on these celebrations:

**November 6, 2017**

Women get the vote in New York State

**November 19, 2019**

Founding of the League of Women Voters  
of New York State

**February 14, 2020**

Founding of League of Women Voters  
of the United States

**August 26, 2020**

Official certification of the ratification  
of the 19th amendment.



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

## Join Us & Make a Difference!

**2016-17 Dues are \$55 (individual);  
\$80 (household); \$25 (student)  
and include our Newsletter.**

Please send your check along with your name, mailing address, phone number and email address to:

League of Women Voters of Saratoga County,  
PO Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.



**Asher and Nicky Thomas go to the polls with their grandmother.**

## Take Me To Vote!

As we approach Election Day one of our most interesting programs, Take Me To Vote, is being implemented all over the county. We are very pleased this year to have 10 of the school districts in the county partnering with us to encourage fifth grade students to go to the polls with an adult. Studies have shown that the earlier a person has experience with voting, the more likely it is that this person will be a voter once they reach voting age.

We have had responses from 26 elementary School buildings and about 1800 students will be potentially checking in at one of our 200 polling sites in the county. It takes a lot of coordination to assemble and deliver packets of flyers and buttons to each of these elementary schools, as well as the packet for each polling site. We are grateful to the assistance of the County Board of Elections in getting the information out to those who staff the polling sites.

Following Election Day we will deliver a plaque to the class with the highest participation in each

elementary school, and we will be arranging for class visits by their Assembly member to the class with the highest participation in the county. Having a legislator visit is always a special event that is important to that lucky fifth grade class.

—*Francine Rodger*

---

## Put in your two cents

At the LWVNY Convention (June 9,10,11, 2017, in Syracuse) one of the important things that our delegates will be voting on is whether we should keep all of our current positions or if there are some we should drop, if we need to add a study so that we can take action on some issue of importance to us. We can also propose by-law changes.

Come to the Wednesday, January 4th board meeting at 7pm in the Kitchenette Room 3, at the United Methodist Church on Henning Road to take part in the discussion. This discussion will be the first thing on the Agenda.

# Celebrating the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LWV Saratoga will once again be co-sponsoring the Community Celebration of the life and ongoing work of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. And we'll need volunteers to help at events.

**Friday 1/13 The Dr. King Challenge**—an evening of music and spoken word performances to honor Dr. King. Time and location TBA

**Sunday 1/15: 11am at Northshire Bookstore**—meet and greet with author Sharon Leslie Morgan (Gather At The Table)

**Sunday 1/15 2pm at SSPL, Dutcher community room**—  
"The Fierce Urgency of Now....Healing America"

*A Conversation with Author  
Sharon Leslie Morgan*

Ms Morgan will address the continuing tragedy of black men being killed by police, the cognitive dissonance that enabled America's founding fathers to establish a democracy even as they held slaves, the implicit bias that infects "officers of the peace," the need for America to confront the legacy of slavery and strategies for achieving reconciliation—thus healing us all.

## **Monday 1/16:**

9:30-12:30: Annual Day of Service, Register at library  
12:30-1:30 volunteer lunch  
2-3:30 pm: Main Program "The Fierce Urgency of Now" at The Music Hall (above city hall)

Featuring keynote Sharon Leslie Morgan, Garland Nelson, SHYFT, Arbor Hill Starlites and Soul Rebel Performance Troupe.

**For details and most up to date information, go to:**  
**facebook.com/MLK.Saratoga**  
**Or email: Saratoga.MLK@gmail.com**

# Should NY have a Constitutional Convention?

New York's Current Constitution requires that the question "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?" be put to the voters of this state every 20 years. 2017 is the year that that question will appear on the general election ballot.

How will YOU answer that question? Should LWVNY take a position for or against? Why?

On Monday, January 23 our League will meet to hear the pros and cons of a "Con Con" in the Community Room of the Adirondack Trust Building, SS at 6:15pm.

Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director of LWVNY and Jennifer Wilson, Program and Policy Director of LWVNY, will be our speakers. Light refreshments will be served.

## In Memorium

**John Green**, a League member for many years, passed away October 7. He devoted his life to education as a teacher and an administrator, most recently at Skidmore College. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Millie, and their entire family.

**Ed Murphy**, long-time League member who died October 22, was famous for the tasty soups he brought to League events. He was retired from a career of working for the Public Service Commission and was an avid golfer. His wife, Barbara, a long-time LWV board member and fair elections advocate, is the recipient of our sympathy and good wishes.

# LWV Book Club

Book Club meets at 1:00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at various locations.

On November 9 we will meet at the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Library (475 Moe Rd) to discuss the book, *Why Liberals Win the Culture Wars* by Stephen Prothero. Margie Van Meter will lead the discussion.



On December 14 we will meet at 12:30, at the Ripe Tomato (separate checks) to celebrate the holidays. RSVP to Francine Rodger so she can make the reservation. We will discuss book suggestions for 2017.

On January 11 we will meet at the Saratoga Springs Public Library to

discuss the book: *Sleeping Giant* by Tamara Draut. Janice Burns will lead the discussion.

All League members are welcome to attend these discussions, so come when you can—whether you have read the book, or not. You will always be welcome. Members who have suggestions for future books are asked to send your suggestions to Francine Rodger.

## Our Newsletter Has a New Look

We've made a few changes to *The Bulletin*. It has a new look and a new name (Newsletter). A big thank you to Margot Ammon for her many years of publishing *The Bulletin* and her invaluable expertise. A big welcome to Paula Jo Smith, ([paulajosmithdesign.com](http://paulajosmithdesign.com)).

She is a new member and will be the Design Editor for the Newsletter. We hope you like the new look. Tell us what you think.



*You are invited to The League's Holiday Party!*

**No Agenda! Just Fun!**

**Tuesday, December 13 at 6 pm**

**At Bravo, 3246 S Broadway, Saratoga Springs**

**Buffet Dinner with the following serving stations:**

Appetizers—Antipasto (no meat), trays with veggies, cheese, fruit; Bruschetta

Salad—House or Caesar toppings

Pasta—garlic sauce with sautéed broccoli & spinach &/or Bolognese sauce

Entrées—Eggplant Rollatini &/or Chicken Marsala

Dessert—assorted homemade Italian cookies; coffee, tea

Cash bar

**\$38 each**

Please mail your payment to Steve Koebrich,  
718 Malta Avenue Extension, Malta, NY 12020 by December 5.

# What a Success! National Voter Registration Day

By Kathy Koebrich

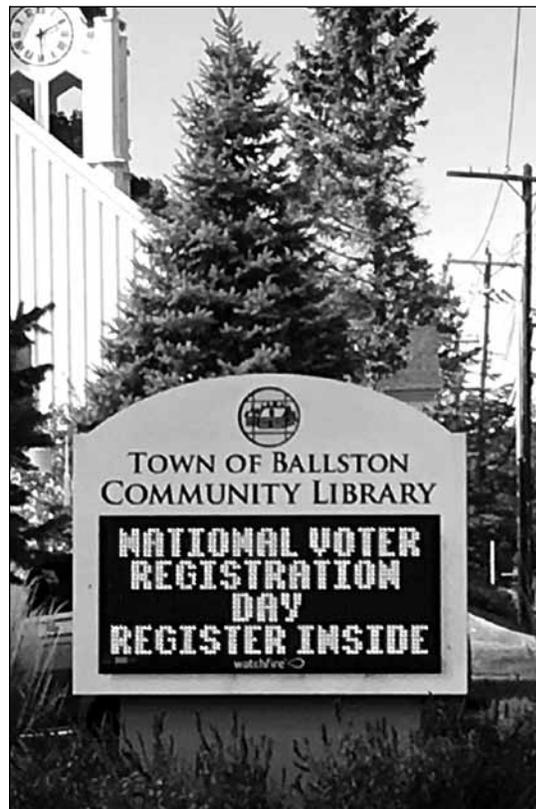
First, I want to thank all of the volunteers for helping with the National Voter Registration Day 2016. It was wonderful to have so many dedicated volunteers and locations to provide this service to the citizens of Saratoga County. We were able to register over 100 voters and many others took registration forms and absentee ballot applications home with them. We were available to answer questions about voting and the upcoming general election. Both the Saratoga County LWV and the Organ Donor Program received some excellent visibility. Nine people filled out organ donor forms and a few others took brochures. Here is a link to a piece they ran on NVRD on WTEN about NVRD:

<http://news10.com/2016/09/27/thousands-of-people-will-hit-the-streets-tuesday-for-national-voter-registration-day/>

Here is a rundown of the day:

VENUE	Number of Registration forms filled out	Number of Registration forms taken	Absentee Ballot Applications taken	Number of people spoken to
Clifton Park Halfmoon Library	23	24	4	57
Schuylerville Library	7	1	2	23
Galway Library	3	5	0	9
Town of Ballston Library	3	12	4	20
Broadway Adirondack Trust	7	15	8	40
Exit 15 Adirondack Trust	1	2	3	38
Bowtie Cinemas	2	0	0	10
5 YMCAs	50	unknown	unknown	unknown

*Editor's note: The Board thanks Kathy for all the energy and skill she put into organizing National Voter Registration Day.*



Sue Stewart standing by to register voters at the Galway Library

# Welcome to the League with a Big Scoop of Ice Cream

*By Pattie Garrett*

We welcomed new members, those interested in the League of Women Voters, and returning members to our Annual Ice Cream Social on October 2nd.

We started by explaining that the league doesn't support candidates or political parties but does take positions on important issues after discussion and we arrive at a consensus or agreement.

Various committee leads were introduced to the group. The afternoon continued with lots of energetic discussion and a brief presentation by the Local Government Study Committee.

A big thank you goes to Stewart's Shops for donating all the yummy ice cream and toppings, and to the membership committee (under the able leadership of Nancy Martinez).

If you couldn't make it to our get together, and are interested in helping on a committee or project, contact us.

**Membership:** Nancy Martinez, 281-1185, The membership committee recruits new members, engages with members to make a strong League, renews memberships and organizes our Annual Ice Cream Social.

**Voter Services:** Ann Kril, 584-1436, This busy committee does the important work of registering voters, holding candidate forums, and Vote411.org, an online voting service.

**Youth Services:** Darnell Rohrbaugh 371-2588, darnrohr@yahoo. The work of this committee is similar to Voter Services only with youth. They organize Take Me To Vote for 5th graders, 1st Vote for high School Students, and Students Inside Albany, a program where we send two students to Albany to learn about government.

**Fund Raising:** Barb Thomas , 681-7530, barb.lwv@nycap.rr.com. We put the fun in fund raising with a Famous Person Reenactor for brunch, plays, looking for grants, and much more.

**Communications:** Pattie Garrett 496-4973, pattiegarrett@aol.com. This is a very broad group that includes our newsletter, website, social media, publicity and more.

There are many ways to get involved. Check out other ideas on <http://www.lwvsaratoga.org/join.htm>

---

## Taking Action

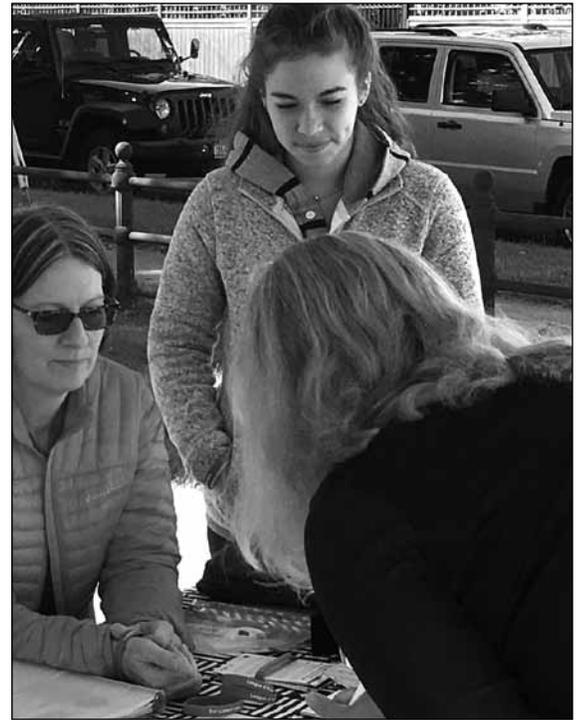
This is the letter sent to the Community News by the Board of LWV Saratoga, and signed by our Lead for October & November, Darnell Rohrbaugh.

*To the Editor,*

*The Board of Education of the Shenendehowa Central School District has issued a RFP to sell approximately 34.3 acres of vacant land in the center of Clifton Park. The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County would like to encourage the school district to take under consideration steps which would allow that land to be retained as open space for public use by area residents.*

The League of Women Voters supports acquisition of land for public use. The League has long held positions supporting management of land as a finite resource, not as a commodity. Land ownership, whether public or private, carries responsibility for stewardship.

Under NYS Education Law School Boards may convey property to another municipality at a reduced price, or at no price, if the property will be used for a public purpose. Indeed, the RFP allows the Town of Clifton Park to explain why retaining this property as open space should be given strong consideration by the School District in making their decision. We urge the Board of Education to do so.



## A Big Year for Voter Registration

Voter Registration moved into high gear with the advent of summer, first at the July 4 Naturalization Ceremony, then at the Farmer's Markets, at Skidmore College, at the Peace Fair, the Irish Arts and Music Festival, Prestwick Chase Retirement Community – 19 different events in all.

175 Voter Registration Forms were completed, and then we mailed or delivered them to the appropriate Board of Elections. Another 151 were taken to be completed elsewhere. And 76 absentee ballot applications were taken, mainly by parents who wanted their children to be able to vote. 15 people completed the organ donor registration on the VR form.

Voter Registration events were coordinated by Janice Burns, with assistance from Mary Lou Classen, Donna Dardaris, Lori Dawson, Ann Kril, Kathy Koebrich. Donna Dardaris-handled VR at Ballston Spa Farmer's Market...by herself! Pat Nugent recruited additional volunteers. Pattie Garrett---took photos and posted to Facebook.

And lots of volunteers helped: Janice Burns, Helen Crawshaw, Lori Dawson, Ellie Dillon, Joan Disare, Mary Sue Dorazio Cherie Gray, Carol Geary, Pattie Heidelmark, Marie Jordan-Whitney, Susan Kipp, Bev LaBarge, Terry Lowenthal, Linda McKenney, Sue Ransom, Elizabeth Rossi, Leslie Sittner, Stephanie Verro.

The statistics above do not include National Voter Registration Day (reported on elsewhere in this newsletter) or our First Vote Project (coordinated by Marian Bigelow). First Vote provides voter registration forms and a pamphlet for first time voters, as well as other pertinent information that is distributed by social studies teachers.





## Thank you!

*By Barb Thomas, Chair*

Thank-you to The Saratogian & Saratoga Prime Properties for providing an opportunity for the League to earn much needed funds by allowing us to park cars in their parking lot – and allowing us to keep all of the parking fees!

Thank You! to Geoff Bornemann, Janice Burns, Bill & Helen Crawshaw, Ellie Dillon, Kathleen Donohue, Susan Ransom, Anne & Lauren Wasielewski who collected the fees and directed people to a parking space. A good time was had by all.

**FYI**

## Compact for the National Popular Vote

This is a compact between the states that requires each state passing the NPV Compact to cast their electoral votes for the person who wins the national popular vote for president of the United States. It takes effect once enough states have joined the Compact to control the Electoral College (270 electoral votes).

NYS enacted the Compact for the National Popular Vote in 2014, but the legislation carried with it a provision that it sunset on Dec 31, 2018. This year (2016) legislation to make the original provisions permanent S.5478 (Griffo) and A.6044 (Dinowitz) were passed in both houses of the legislature and are awaiting the governor's signature.

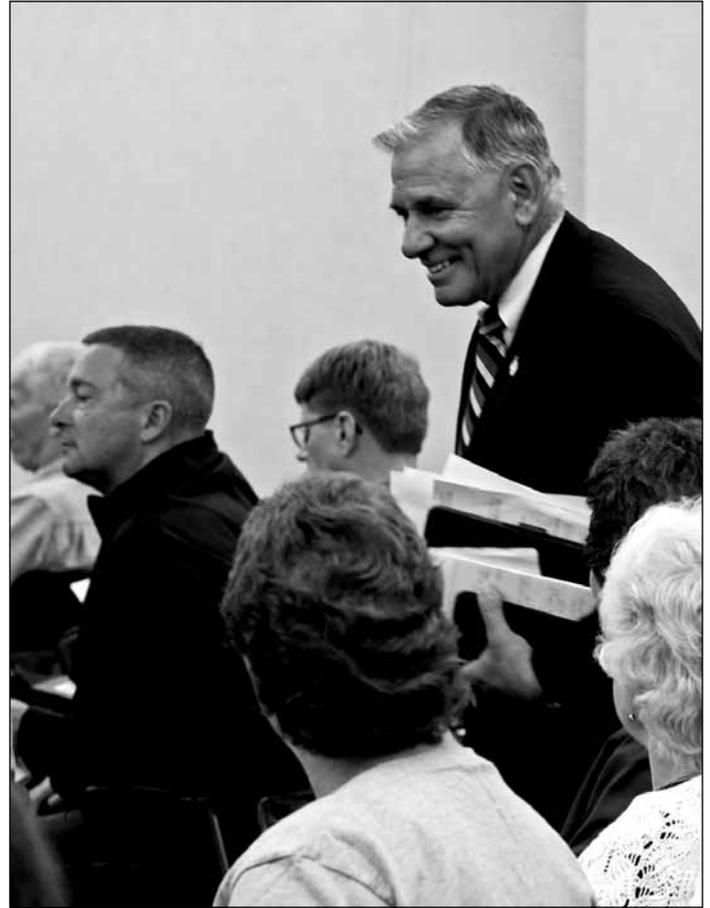
## Facebook Live!

Every Meet the Candidate Forum is taped and posted on YouTube, our website, and on Social Media. On October 19th we posted the forum on Facebook as a live stream. From the convenience of your home you can view the forum on our Facebook page in real time. We hope to provide more in the future. Stay tuned. Please "Like" our Facebook Page, [www.facebook.com/lwvsaratoga](http://www.facebook.com/lwvsaratoga), and follow along. We have a Twitter account, @LWV\_SC.

## Check Out LWV Videos on YouTube

The LWVUS has uploaded videos of League issues to You Tube. These tapes deal with issues such as pollution, LWV history, money in politics, among others. Access them at <https://www.youtube.com/user/LeagueofWomenVoters>.





## Candidate Forums

The four Capital Region Leagues (including Saratoga) co-sponsored a candidate forum for the Candidates for the 20th Congressional district, Paul Tonko and Joe Vitollo at the CP/HM Library on October 18th. Contentious issues were immigration, Syrian refugees, gun safety.

Candidates for the 112th Assembly district, Mary Beth Walsh and Michael Godlewski, were the opening act at LWVSC's Candidate Forum on October 19, at the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School. The main event was the race for the 49th Senate District, starring Chad Putman and James Tedisco. The entire evening was live-streamed on our FaceBook page and has been posted to YouTube.

Ann Kril, chair of the LWVSC Voters Service Committee, has recruited, trained and mobilized an army of volunteers to staff our Candidate Forums. Thanks go to Ann and all those who helped.

As we go to press LWVSC's final Candidate Forum, on October 26, for candidates running in the 113th Assembly District and candidates running for the 43rd Senate District is still in the offing. The Stillwater Community Center is the scene where Chris Boyark will face off with Carrie Woerner, and Shaun Francis, Joe Levy and Kathy Marchione will challenge each other.

---

### Thanks to our Contributors:

**Prof. Stephen K. Medvic**  
**Margie Shepard**

### Welcome New Members

**Celeste Caruso**  
**Linda McKenney**  
**Ann Marie Pendergast**



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

ADDRESS  
SERVICE  
REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Saratoga Springs NY  
Permit No. 16

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**2016**

- Wednesday, November 9, Book Club,**  
CP/HM Library, 1pm
- Monday, November 14, Film: Electoral  
Dysfunction,** CP/HM Library, 7pm.
- Monday, November 21, Legislative  
Procedures Consensus.** Community Room,  
SSPL, 6pm.
- Tuesday, December 13, Holiday Party,**  
Bravo, 6pm
- Wednesday, December 14, Book Club  
Holiday Lunch,** Ripe Tomato, 12:30pm

**2017**

- January 1, Kick off for 100th Anniversary  
Celebrations**
- Wednesday, January 4, LWVNY Convention  
Input,** Methodist Church, 7pm
- Wednesday, January 11, Book Club,** SSPL, 1pm
- Monday, January 16, MLK, Jr. Celebration,**  
time and location TBA
- Monday, January 23, Should NYS Have a  
Constitutional Convention?,** Community  
Room, Adirondack Trust Bldg., 35 Church  
Street, SS, 6:15pm.
- Saturday, March 18, Annual Fundraiser:  
Meet Elizabeth Cady Stanton,** Gideon  
Putnam Hotel, 9am

---

Issue 5, Nov/Dec/Jan 2016-17 (min 4 issues per year)  
Editors: Barbara Thomas and Pattie Garrett.  
Design Editor: Paula Jo Smith.  
Photos: Bill Crawshaw.  
Our website: [www.lwvsaratoga.org](http://www.lwvsaratoga.org).  
Published by The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County,  
PO Box 1029, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866