

LWV NEWSLETTER

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LWVSC Supports the New Charter for Saratoga Springs

See page 3 for information and details.

Election Day

Tuesday, November 7

Polls are open 6am to 9pm

Vote on the 3 statewide ballot questions, and in Saratoga Springs, vote on the proposed new Charter, even if there are no contested offices where you live.

Concurrence Meetup

Wednesday, November 15, 7pm

At the Adirondack Trust Mabee Building

Do we agree with the position developed by LWV Utah regarding **Death with Dignity?** See page 7.

Observer Corps Organizational Meeting

Monday, November 20, 2pm

Potential observers needed, See page 5

Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 19, 6pm

Bravo Restaurant, 3246 S Broadway (Route 9), Saratoga Springs

Celebrate with League Friends!

\$38, RSVP by December 8

Details and coupon on page 9

Don't Forget to Check Our Website Frequently

New events will be posted as they are confirmed



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

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/lwvsaratoga
and on Twitter @LWV_SC

Steering Committee:

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

October, November, December, January: Ann Kril, 60
Hillcrest Drive, Saratoga Springs, 12866,
518-584-1436

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

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Mary Lou Classen, Voter Registration, 4 Blue Spruce
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518-884-9070

Charlotte Druschel, Voters' Services, 27 Paisley Road,
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Carol Fallon, 107 Catherine Street, Saratoga Springs,
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Carol Glansberg, Famous Person Fundraiser, 62 Kent
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Louise Golub, Environment, 10 Hathorn St., Saratoga
Springs, 12866, 518-584-7518

Linda Gush, Observer Corps, 26 Lafayette Street,
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, 518-742-9069

Terry Lowenthal, 12 Mystic Lane, Saratoga Springs,
12866, 518-587-2516

Linda McKenney, 100th Anniversary, 5 Stark Trail,
Gansevoort, 12831, 518-229-5695

Darnell Rohrbaugh, Chair, Youth Programs, 6 Almeria
Drive, Clifton Park, 12065, 518-371-2588

Off Board Chairs:

Marian Bigelow, First Vote, 253 Clinton St., Saratoga
Springs, 12866, 518-587-3847

Lori Dawson, co-chair Meetups, 4 Marion Place, Saratoga
Springs, 12866, 518-580-0547

Mary-Sue D'Orazio, co-chair Voters' Service, 5 Foxhall
Drive, Saratoga Springs, 12866, 518-306-4322

Cherie Grey, Nominating, co-chair Meetups, 38 Fifth Ave,
Saratoga Springs, 12866, 518-587-7211

Nancy Martinez, Membership, 4 Equestrian Lane, Apt.8,
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Ann Marie Pendergast, VOTE411, 6 Maddy Groves
Road, Greenfield Center, 12833, 518-788-0928

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Clifton Park, 12065, 518-371-8032

*The LWV of Saratoga County does not support or
oppose any candidate or political party. We sometimes
take positions on non-partisan issues. This has been the
League's policy for 97 years.*

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LWVSC Supports the Proposed Saratoga Springs City Charter

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County (LWVSC) announces its support for the proposed new charter for Saratoga Springs. We believe that it is important to separate the legislative functions of government from the administrative ones, to have a strong centralized administration, to have clear lines of responsibility, to be representative of the entire community, to be efficient and cost-effective. LWVSC determined that the current charter doesn't meet those goals.

LWVSC supports the proposed new charter, which creates a council-manager form of government, because it will provide for the separation of powers. It does this by creating a seven-person City Council (including a voting Mayor) who will hire a qualified city manager to run all of the City's departments. LWVSC expects that more people from diverse backgrounds will run for office and elections will become more competitive when Council members don't also have to run a department.

The board of LWVSC took this position of support for the proposed new charter at its September board meeting, deciding that it met the requirements

of the position on the Governance of Local Governments adopted in April, 2017. (<http://www.lwvsaratoga.org/pdfs/localgovernmentconsensus.pdf>). The membership reached that consensus following a study of local governments begun May 30, 2015.

On September 21, 2017, we held a forum featuring a panel from the Charter Review Commission to speak about the process and the proposal. The panelists were, Gordon Boyd - founder of EnergyNext, Inc., former NYS Assembly staff member, Minita Sanghvi -assistant professor, Management and Business, Skidmore College and Barbara Thomas -LWV member and Co-President, former health clinic director. The room was full and the audience was engaged, asking questions after the panel presentation. At the end of the event, time was allowed for the audience to have their voices heard with an invitation to state their thoughts on the proposal.

In case you missed it, the video of the evening is posted on our website in videos. This is the link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRh4K_4tJxE&feature=youtu.be

We'll Miss These League Members

Mary Jane Crotty died August 30th at age 76. She was retired from a career as a statistician for the NYS Board of Education in Albany.

Mia Mouzon Groce` died August 23rd at age 92. She grew up in Saratoga Springs and was the first woman of color to graduate (in 1947) from Skidmore College. Racism and bigotry were things she dealt with throughout her life – always with grace, dignity and determination. Mia was on the cover of Jet magazine in 1953; she taught school in Florida; she served on the 2001 Saratoga Springs Charter Review Commission; she was an inspiration to her daughter and grand daughter.

John Nelson, former healthcare executive and Yaddo finance director, devoted husband to Lee, father, friend, volunteer and martini aficionado, died August 30th at age 91. John spent his career in the non-profit sector, pioneering and building some of the country's first affordable health care networks. Nelson served on many local boards and organizations including the Saratoga Springs Rotary, Saratoga's Art Council, Mary's Haven, GHI/HMO and the Chekov Sisters City program.

Candidate Events

By Charlotte Druschel

September was a busy month for Voter Services, organizing events and contacting candidates. In addition to our usual candidate forums, Malta and Saratoga Springs, we added Milton and Wilton as there were contested seats. We were also asked to do two additional events, one in Thurman (Warren County as there is no active League) and Charlton, which was organized by the Charlton Seniors. All these Candidate Events were scheduled on six nights during October.

By the time you read this, the candidate events will have taken place. This could not have been done without the help of the Voter Services committee and the volunteers who staffed the events. Whether you helped at all six or could make only one, you were instrumental in allowing us to carry out this core function of the League. Thank you!

Video from these events are posted on our website and Vote411.

Book Club

**November 9 Thursday, 1:30pm,
Saratoga Springs Library**

**KILLERS of the FLOWER MOON
THE OSAGE MURDERS and
the BIRTH OF THE FBI
By David Grann**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=cZeGniBL6Gs>

**December 14, Thursday, 1pm,
The Thirsty Owl**

184 S. Broadway, Saratoga Springs
BOOK CLUB LUNCHEON

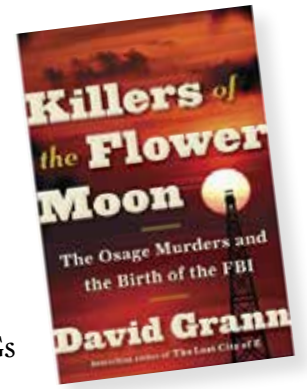
Celebrate the Holidays. There is some parking behind the building. RSVP to Francine Rodger by Dec. 7 (518-371-8032)

**January 11, Thursday, 1:30pm,
Clifton Park - Half Moon Public Library**

**PLOT TO HACK AMERICA.
By Malcolm Nance**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=joSUFaLcKWc>

As always, everyone is welcome at the LWVSC Book Club. However, you will get more out of the discussion if you have read the book or at least have watched the associated video.



On the Ballot: The Constitutional Convention, A History and Look at the Constitutional Process

By the time this newsletter reaches you we will have held an event on the Constitutional Convention on (Wednesday October 11) at Skidmore College. Providing insight on this issue was Jim Malatras, President of the Rockefeller Institute of Government for the State University of New York System, a think tank providing cutting-edge evidence-based public policy to decision makers across the nation.

The LWVNY is in support of the Constitutional Convention. "New York State's political leaders have failed for the past two decades to enact meaningful reform



and make democracy work in our state," said Dare Thompson, President of the League. "In this 100th anniversary year of women getting the vote in New York State, New Yorkers will be able to send a strong message that they

are fed up with corruption and dysfunction in Albany." The entire press release can be found here: http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/concon/2017/Press-Con-con_032717.pdf

Observer Corps is Starting Up Again!

Observer Corps: Former Opportunity Reenergized

By Linda Gush

An informational meeting for LWVSC members considering participation in the Observer Corps will be held on Monday, November 20 at 2:00 pm in the home of Linda Gush, 26 LaFayette St., Saratoga Springs. Those planning on attending should contact Linda via e-mail linda.gush@gmail.com or telephone 518.742.9069. If you can't attend this meeting, but you are interested let Linda know.

An Observer Corps (OC) is a program to ensure access to government information as stipulated in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA, 1966),

Federal Advisory Committee Act (1972) and the Sunshine Act (1976). Access to both public records and public meetings is protected by these laws.

OC provides a unique opportunity to learn about government meetings held in Saratoga County, provide oversight to insure transparency, and share information with the League of Women Voters Saratoga County (LWVSC). This is not a new initiative but rather a continuation of past efforts.

The emphasis for members of the OC should be to attend local meetings of particular interest to them. Coordination of information from individuals and reported monthly to the LWV creates a summary of local government issues, efforts to address challenges and transparency procedures.

A Strong Constitution: Stepping Up to Protect Our Democracy

Join us for a series of discussions on the principles of our U.S. Constitution. Spawned from the American Revolution, and rooted in our history, our rights and freedoms are the bedrock of our democracy and protected by the Constitution. Today, we face tests that challenge the fabric of those principles.

Speakers will explore the impact of recent challenges, what the future holds and how we can act to protect our democracy. The first in the series will be offered in January, with others to follow. We will announce details on our website and in social media. Look for email alerts. Please plan to attend.

Stand up for our democracy, have your voice heard, be part of the solution.

Calling all Saratoga County High School Juniors!

Be on the lookout for the applications for Students Inside Albany coming in January. Check our web site for updates. If you know a high school Junior who may be interested in learning more about state government and citizen action, let them know about this excellent program.

Thanks to our Donors

Laura Chodos

Louise Golub

Dee Sarno

Welcome New Members:

Sydelle Fischer

Mary Loose

Martha Van Patten

Sharon Sassaman





Barbara Thomas takes her grandchildren to vote

First Vote 2017

By Marian Bigelow

This September our League delivered 2087 sets of Voter Materials to Saratoga County teachers in 11 high schools in Saratoga County - so the teachers are prepared to register High School Seniors!

Each set consisted of Voter Registration Forms, First Vote Pamphlets and Your Right to Vote Pamphlets to. The high schools receiving materials this year were Burnt Hills, Corinth, Galway, Hadley/Luzerne, Mechanicville, Saratoga Springs, Schuylerville, Shenendahowa, South Glens Falls, Stillwater and the Waldorf School. Ballston Spa gets their own forms, and Saratoga Catholic had enough left over from last year.

The teacher in Corinth requested (and got) 100 League pens this year to give to each student on their birthday along with a voter registration form.

Many thanks to those who helped with delivery to the schools.

Take Me to Vote!

By Darnell Rohrbaugh

Take Me to Vote (TMTV) is a program to encourage fifth- grade students to go to the polls with their parents, and parents to go to the polls with their child. Suzanne Bishop is coordinating the program this year.

When a child goes to the polls with an adult, the poll workers place a stamp (provided by LWVSC) on a form the child takes to the polls – to prove that the child went to the polling place. Each child who went to the polls also gets a sticker when they turn in their form at school. The classroom with the most participants in each school gets a plaque or certificate. And the classroom with the most participation in each assembly district wins a visit from their state legislator.

Many thanks to Suzanne's book club, Friends and Counsel Book Club, for putting the classroom and poll workers packets together for us.

Death with Dignity: Do We Concur?

Our Meetup on November 15th will focus on whether or not we agree with the following two-part position:

1. The League of Women Voters of New York believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life.
2. The League of Women Voters of New York believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel who act in good faith compliance with the law.

The above wording is based on the position developed by the LWV of Utah, after conducting a study of the issue. Our committee (Donna Dardaris, Terry Lowenthal, Darnell Rohrbaugh, Sharon Sassaman, Barb Thomas, chair) will present findings from the study by LWV Utah. In the meantime think about these arguments:

Pro: The argument for autonomy in end-of-life decision-making advocates for a person being able to determine how she/he lives and dies.

Relief from pain and suffering is the other primary argument for the legalization of Death with Dignity. One's quality of life is diminished by pain and suffering in various forms, including mental anguish, loss of physical capabilities and dignity.

Con: Most people have a strong conviction about the wrongness of killing.

It is also argued that Death with Dignity is suicide, and that suicide is intrinsically wrong.

Saving lives is ingrained in all healthcare professionals, from physicians and nurses to lab technicians. They are committed to healing and saving lives.

The possibility that a Death with Dignity law opens the doors for potential abuse raises fears and strong objections.

Then read, or at least skim, all the background materials found on the LWVNY website: <http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies.html>



Compassion and Choices protest in the Capital

Voter Registration 2017

*By Janice Burns, Mary Lou Classen,
Donna Dardaris, Kathy Koebrich*



This year LWVSC had voter registration tables everywhere. We were at the Saratoga Springs Farmer's Market (many times), the Clifton Park/Halfmoon Public Library Community Day, Irish



Fest, the Peace Fair, four Naturalization Ceremonies and on National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) we were at seven locations, including Saratoga Hospital, Ben & Jerry's, Bow-Tie Cinemas and two colleges (Skidmore & ACC Wilton).

Here's what Kathy Koebrich, the coordinator of NVRD had to say:

First, I want to thank all of you for helping with the National Voter Registration Day 2017. It was wonderful to have so many dedicated volunteers and locations to provide this service to the citizens



of Saratoga County. League members, decked out in white shirts, buttons and LWV Suffragist sashes, spoke to over 500 people on National Voter Registration Day! The public was appreciative and interested in what we had to say and many took our brochures.

We were able to register over 56 voters and many others took registration forms and absentee ballot applications home with them. We were available to answer questions about voting and provide information about the upcoming November election and ballot proposals. Both the Saratoga County LWV and the Organ Donor Program received some excellent visibility. Fifteen people filled out organ donor forms and a few others took brochures.

Excluding NVRD (reported above), our voter registration efforts resulted in: 24 completed Voter registration forms; 13 voter registration forms taken; 7 absentee ballot application forms taken or completed; 5 organ donor forms completed; more than 275 Facts for Voters (part 1 & 2) handed out; hundreds of people spoken with about voting and the LWV.



Create Change! Have Your Voice Heard. Join Our Meetups.

By Lori Dawson and Cherie Gray

The Member Meetup Committee consisting of Lori Dawson, Pattie Garrett, Ann Kril, and Cherie Grey met recently to set an agenda and present ideas for future Meetups.

We'll start the season off by building our lobbying skills on Wednesday, October 18th at 7 pm, Adirondack Trust Community Room. "Building Skills for Lobbying" will feature a Citizen Lobbyist presentation and breakout sessions for sharpening our skills so our members will be ready to follow our legislature in January. Bring a laptop if you have one. We'll also make plans for our future meetups.

November 15th will be a LWV Concurrence, Death with Dignity. Our league will explore a

position from Utah and determine if we agree with it. If we adopt the position, we can then lobby for legislation that we expect to be introduced in the upcoming NYS legislative session.

December is a month to enjoy the holidays and get some rest, because it'll be a very busy 2018. Put comfortable shoes on your wish list.

January 17th is the "Art of Protest". We are still putting this together so stay tuned on our website, Facebook, Twitter and look for our email alerts.

Meetups are a way for us to come together to explore, understand and advocate for issues that matter to us. Held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Adirondack Trust Mabee Office Building community room – entrance off the upper level parking garage. See map on website.

You are invited to The League's Holiday Party!

Tuesday, December 19, 6pm

**Bravo Restaurant,
3246 S Broadway (Route 9),
Saratoga Springs**

Celebrate with League Friends!

\$38, RSVP by December 8

MENU

Appetizers

Mixed Nuts • Chips and Salsa • Crudite

Buffet Dinner

- House Salad • Rigatoni Marinara
- Sautéed Spinach & Broccoli (garlic and oil)
 - Eggplant Parmesan
- Chicken Piccata (capers, white wine, lemon)

Dessert Cannoli • Petit Fours

Coffee and Tea, Fountain Beverages

Cash bar

LWV Holiday Party!

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Number of reservations @ \$38 per person _____

Total enclosed _____

Make check payable to LWVSC

Mail coupon and check to Steve Koebrich,
718 Malta Ave Ext., Malta, NY 12020

Our Annual Ice Cream Social Was a Success

by Nancy Martinez and Pattie Garrett

The Ice Cream Social Meetup was a success, with over 40 members and guests attending. Attendees heard a description of the League and what makes this membership organization unique and important, and learned about the work of our local league and the many ways to get involved. Jennifer Wilson, Program and Policy Director of the LWNYS, reviewed state level efforts to move legislation concerning voting, health care and women's rights, and spoke about the upcoming legislative session and plans for action.

Those in attendance had questions, comments and suggestions about moving forward. One guest joined the League on the spot and several others took membership information. Thank you to the Membership Committee, Jennifer Wilson, the Board and all of the members that participated so enthusiastically!

And, thanks to Stewart's for the donation of ice cream and toppings!



League Day at the United Nations

A Briefing on Forced Labor and Human Trafficking

Join us for a Day at the United Nations. The Annual League Day at the United Nations in New York City is planned for Thursday, November 16,



2017. Enjoy a tour of the United Nations and lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room, followed by a briefing on Forced Labor and Human Trafficking. Arrangements have been made to take a bus from Albany to NYC. The bus will leave from Crossgates Mall around 7pm (we'll be notified on the exact time). We will return in the evening.

The mail-in Registration Form with fees is on this link: <http://files.constantcontact.com/37d635eb001/1dd8acf2-ca41-4458-acc6-e319982ff3ac.pdf>

To register online, use this link: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/INvmPPc4Hpebf0PLNzaRnw

Vote December 5 for Shenendehowa Land Preservation

By Darnell Rohrbaugh

The Town of Clifton Park and the Shenendehowa School District Board of Education have reached an agreement concerning 34 acres of wooded land. The Saratoga County LWV under its land use positions, supported a petition drive and referendum in Clifton Park to keep the land owned by the Shenendehowa School District in the public domain. The initiative was spearheaded by Clifton

Park Friends of Open Space. The League wrote letters and helped with the petition drive. The Town of Clifton Park will buy the land from the school district and keep it as wooded park land.

This was a true grass roots effort by citizens who showed they would rather have trees and park in the center of town than more blacktop and commercial development. Citizens including league members, collected over 5,000 signatures in the cold of December to force a referendum where about 7,000 people in the school district voted. The BOE and Town Board will approve the sale at their October meetings. The Shenendehowa School District citizens will need to vote again on this issue to approve the final terms and sale on December 5. Congratulations to all who worked on this drive. Thank them by voting on December 5th.

JOIN US & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YES! I would like to join the League.
2017/18 dues enclosed.

\$55. Individual \$80 Family \$25 Student

In addition, I would like to contribute \$ _____

Please send a gift membership.

(enclose name and address)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (home) _____ (work) _____

E-MAIL _____

Check if you would prefer an electronic Bulletin

I would like to subscribe to the BULLETIN, \$15.

enclosed *(Note: The Bulletin is free with membership)*

Total enclosed _____

Please send your check to:

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



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November

Saturday, Nov 4, LWVNY Reception for opening of Votes for Women exhibit at the NYS Museum, 5-8pm, \$50 or more, this is a fundraiser. Includes private access to the exhibit.

Tuesday, 11-7-17, Election Day, polls open 6am to 9pm.

Thursday, 11-9-17, Book Club, SSPL, 1:30pm

Wednesday, 11-15-17, Meetup: Death with Dignity Concurrence, ADK Trust Mabee Office Bldg., 7pm.

Thursday, 11-16-17, League Day at the UN

December

Thursday, 12-14-17, Book Club Celebrates the Holidays. the Thirsty Owl, 184 S. Broadway, Saratoga Springs, 1pm

Tuesday, 12-19-17, Holiday Party, Bravo Restaurant, \$38, 6pm

Wednesday, 12-20-17, No Meetup this month

January

Thursday, 1-11-18, Book Club, Clifton Park - Half Moon Public Library, 1:30pm

Wednesday, 1-17-18, Meetup: Art of Protest, ADK Trust Mabee Office Building, 7pm

Thursday, 1-25-18, Making Democracy Work Series, Dutcher Room, SSPL, 7pm

Issue 4, Nov/Dec/Jan 2017-2018
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Our website: www.lwvsaratoga.org.

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